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NOVELL NETWORKS

Hostages executed as Singh warns Pakistan

More troops for Srinagar; curfew continues

SRINAGAR, April 11, (AP): Muslim militants escalated their campaign for an independent Kashmir, killing two more hostages in Srinagar and bombing a crowded commuter train near Bombay, police said today.

The bodies of the two hostages were found late yesterday night, several hours after the body of a third hostage was dumped near a Srinagar fire station. India sent more troops to the northern city and continued an indefinite curfew, an

official said.

Telephone callers purporting to speak for the "Mujahideen Kashmir" claimed responsibility for today's bombing that injured 34 people, 18 critically, near the Mallad station on the outskirts of Bombay, United News of India reported.

Mujahideen Kashmir means Islamic holy warriors of Kashmir. The group had never been heard of until it claimed responsibility yesterday for bomb blasts that injured at least nine police officers in two New Delhi police stations.



Amir visits diwaniya

HH the Amir last night visited Diwaniya Shura al Nabat (local poets premises). He was received at the diwaniya by its chairman Sheikh Mishaal Al Ahmed Al Jaber. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and a number of senior officials accompanied the Amir in his visit.

World poorer

'Ailing' Mother Teresa retires

VATICAN CITY, April 11, (AP): Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Mother Teresa as head of the religious order she founded to care for the sick and poor in Calcutta, India, the Vatican announced today.

The 79-year-old nun was hospitalised last year for heart trouble, and surgeons implanted a permanent pacemaker on Dec 1. Deputy Vatican spokesman Monsignor Piero Pennacchini noted that Mother Teresa was no longer able to leave Calcutta to visit her missions in other parts of the world.

Pennacchini said Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her charity work, submitted her resignation for health reasons and was happy to turn over the reins to "younger hands."

Mother Teresa, who was born in Yugoslavia, founded the missionaries of charity in 1950 in Calcutta's squalid slums. The order, recognised by the Vatican in 1963, expanded and now has 3,000 nuns working to help the poor in 87 countries.

A new head of the order will be elected in Calcutta Sept 8, Pennacchini said.



'Nun' of this:

A picture of three women dressed as Catholic nuns, lifting their skirts to reveal their garters, which appeared in an Australian government tourist brochure aimed at attracting Japanese visitors has been withdrawn and destroyed because it was labelled offensive to women and religion. The women were in fact fancy-dress revellers at a Melbourne Cup race meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops patrol a hungry Karachi

KARACHI, April 11, (Reuters): Tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved into the Pakistani city of Karachi today to guard against violence following the death of a leading political activist shot last week.

Three tanks and eight armoured personnel carriers took up position not far from the Aga Khan Hospital before a hospital spokesman announced that activist Najib Ahmed had died.

Ahmed, a leading figure in the student wing of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), had been on a life support system since being shot last Friday.

At least 19 people died after the attack sparked a weekend of violence between PPP supporters and the Mohajir Qawmi Movement (MOM) that dominates this port city of eight million people.

Troops and paramilitary rangers have been patrolling Karachi since Monday to try to contain violence, fuelled by the easy availability of Kalashnikov assault rifles in Pakistan.

MOM chief Altaf Hussain, who represents Muslim migrants from India, and hundreds of his supporters are on hunger strike demanding the release of people arrested over the latest upsurge in violence.

Altaf's doctors have warned he has a serious kidney complaint that could worsen if he does not take water.

The head of the Karachi PPP, Rashid Rabbani, has also threatened to begin fasting from today if those who killed PPP followers were not arrested.

In a press release, the Sindh provincial government said, "Some people who want to blackmail and believe in terrorism are trying to create a law and order situation."

"The demands of the MOM are that there should not be any legal action against the terrorists and against all those involved in various crimes," said the press release.

Government officials said deployment of tanks and armoured cars was necessary to strengthen security in Karachi although the situation in Pakistan's biggest city was under control.

The MOM and PPP used to be coalition partners but their uneasy partnership splintered last October when the MOM defected to the opposition.

The PPP rules Sindh province but the MOM and Mohajir migrants from India dominate Karachi and the province's second city Hyderabad.

Since 1986 both cities have repeatedly been rocked by ethnic and political violence that has killed more than 1,000 people.



Professor Musheer-ul-Haq vice chancellor of the Kashmir University, in academic dress before he was kidnapped by militants fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir. He was killed on Tuesday night by his kidnappers after the Indian government refused their demand to free three colleagues in exchange for him. (Reuters wirephoto)

State less stable

Mubarak for confederation

WASHINGTON, April 11, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak believes a confederation with Jordan would be a better solution for the Palestinian problem than an independent state, according to an interview published here this week.

Mubarak, speaking with editors of the weekly US News and World Report, said that under a permanent solution Israeli troops could withdraw from the occupied West Bank but remain stationed on strategic mountain ridges and along the Jordan River. "These arrangements can be reached during negotiations. ... I think it might be accepted," he was quoted as saying.

Mubarak also said that once Israeli-Palestinian negotiations get under way, Syria would join them.

"We have a golden opportunity for peace now. But (some Israelis) are being blockheaded" in insisting that Jordan is the solution to the Palestinian problem, Mubarak said.

"At their last Algiers conference, the Palestinians agreed on a state in confederation with Jordan," he said. "I think it's a good signal. Confederation would be much more stable. We just shouldn't talk about it a lot," the Egyptian leader said.

Although Yasser Arafat does not control all the diverse factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mubarak said, "Arafat is the best man in the whole lot, and the one Israel must negotiate with."

Mubarak said Libya may be producing small amounts of chemical weapons. "Don't believe that Libya is producing big chemical weapons. If they are, then it's with foreign aid and may be true only in a small way," he was quoted as saying.

Iraq is ready for inspection of its facilities if other countries in the region have theirs inspected too, he said. "But you can't give Israel a green light" to produce weapons, Mubarak said. He did not elaborate on what kinds of weapons or facilities he was referring to.

As for Iran, "I don't trust the Iranian stand" even though the country's new leaders have sought to renew diplomatic ties with Egypt, he said.

The New Delhi and Bombay bombings were the first time Kashmir separatists claimed responsibility for attacks outside Kashmir since the Indian government launched a crackdown Jan 20 on the secessionist movement.

The old princely state of Kashmir was split between India and Pakistan when the two countries were partitioned along religious lines upon becoming independent from Britain in 1947. They have fought three wars, two over Kashmir.

India has accused Pakistan of aiding the Muslim separatists in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge.

Yesterday, Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Pakistan would pay a "heavy price" for any intervention in the conflict with secessionists in Indian Kashmir.

He said India should be "psychologically prepared" for any eventual, apparently referring to possible armed conflict with Pakistan.

In New Delhi, dozens of supporters of a new Hindu militant group calling itself the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Army marched to the Pakistan embassy on Wednesday.

"We will crush Pakistan," the protesters shouted.

The group was formed last month to counter the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, the biggest of several Muslim separatist groups in India's northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

In Srinagar, the base of the secessionist movement, security forces tightened their crackdown on separatists following the killings of the three hostages.

About 100 Indian army trucks carrying an estimated 1,000 soldiers in battle dress moved into the city today.

The Jammu-Kashmir state government ordered local police and civilians with curfew passes to stay indoors until further notice, a senior police official said on condition of not being identified.

In killing the three hostages, the militants departed from previous practice. They previously had killed only civilians accused of being police informers.

All three were kidnapped on Friday and threatened with execution if the government did not release three jailed militants.

The government refused to negotiate. It imposed an around-the-clock curfew after the kidnappings and detained between 300 and 400 people suspected of links with the secessionist movement.

The bodies of Kashmir University Vice-Chancellor Musheer-ul-Haq and his private secretary, Abdul Ghani, were found last night near the Srinagar airport, officials said on condition of not being identified. Both had been shot in the back, the officials said. The two victims were Muslims.

Earlier yesterday, the bullet-riddled body of L.M. Khara, general manager of Hindustan Machine Tools, was found. He was a Hindu.

"The dastardly murders ... are the grossest violations of human rights where innocent persons are being made victims of senseless externally inspired and motivated violence," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth told reporters today in New Delhi.

He said events in Kashmir indicated "a sinister pattern of incitement to violence being orchestrated by so-called leaders of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and by elements within Pakistan itself."

At least 259 people have been killed in Kashmir since the government crackdown began Jan 20. Most have been curfew violators or demonstrators shot by security forces.

Nearly 500 Bangladeshi Muslims demonstrated outside the Indian High Commission (embassy) in Dhaka today, demanding an end to what they termed aggression in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, witnesses said.

Kuwait for UN

Date with debt

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad leaves the country by end of next week for New York heading Kuwait's delegation to the 18th extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

Sheikh Sabah, accompanied by Kuwaiti permanent UN representative Mohammed Abul Hassan and other senior officials, is to briefly stop over in Geneva and Paris on his way to New York.

The extraordinary session, which takes place in the period April 23-28, will be allocated to discussing international economic co-operation.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat is to deliver a speech on April 24 tackling the world's economic situation and dangers of the debt problem's continuation on the poor countries.

The speech will further urge the international community to maintain closer co-operation to solve that problem and recall HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad's proposals in his regard during a speech before the General Assembly in September 1988.

Kuna learnt that the session will look into changes in the world economy and means of facing economic challenges especially in the developing nations in addition to finding methods of more effective multilateral co-operation in the economic sphere.

The session's preparatory committee had called on the international community to exert amalgamated efforts that would benefit all countries, arguing that such efforts would help ensure constant development in the world economy with particular emphasis on nourishing developing countries' economic growth.

The committee resolved that the extraordinary session would recommend appropriate guidelines in field of general policies especially regarding activities launched by the US and its affiliated agencies in addition to laying down an international development strategy for the nineties.

Pearl of wisdom

Fatwa closes market

KUWAIT, April 11, (UPI): Kuwait's Islamic theologians have ruled that buying oysters on the chance they could bear pearls was sinful, and the ruling led to the closure of a decades-old oyster market, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported today.

A Kuwaiti daily said that an ordinary citizen had approached the Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs for an opinion on the practice, and the judgement was a formal prohibition.

Islamic experts told the Associated Press that the practice was considered tantamount to gambling, banned by the Muslim religion.

They quoted Sheikh Mishaal Mubarak Al Sabah, head of the Islamic Judgement Department, as saying, "The sale of pearls before cracking the oyster is illegal because only almighty God knows if it includes pearls or not."

The daily in turn explained that as oysters in Kuwait are purchased for the sole purpose of searching for pearls, the trade is tantamount to lottery or gambling. But if sold for eating, the trade becomes legal, it said.



Questions raised

France closed a chapter on a nagging hostage crisis in Lebanon with the return of its remaining captive but raised new questions on a possible arms for hostages deal.

Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente and her Belgian lover Fernand Houtekens arrived in Paris on Tuesday night with their two-year-old daughter Sophie — Liberte born while they were held hostage by a hardline pro-Libyan rebel group.

But even as French officials hailed the successful outcome of delicate negotiations to free them, a senior cabinet minister was forced to deny growing speculation that a Mirage jet deal with Libya bought their freedom.

He was referring to France's decision last month to allow the delivery of three Mirage jets to Libya despite a European embargo.

Shown above is Sophie holding on to her mother's hand. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peres power 'dive'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 11, (Reuters): President Chaim Herzog gave Labour Party leader Shimon Peres two more weeks to try to form a government after Peres's first attempt failed in Parliament today.

The Labour leader was forced to seek an adjournment after the last-minute defection of two religious members deprived him of a parliamentary majority, leaving caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud government in power.

Peres told reporters on leaving Herzog's office: "I asked for 15 days and the president granted this request."

Peres, looking subdued after the hour-long meeting with Herzog, did not say how he could establish a majority.

He deflected calls for another national unity government, saying the central question was whether or not Israel would resume Middle East peace efforts.

Labour quit a 15-month-old unity cabinet with Likud last month, opening the current political crisis, after Shamir refused to commit Israel to entering US-sponsored peace talks with the Palestinians in Cairo.

"Let's never forget that the government fell on the issue of peace," Peres told reporters. "I am convinced that if Israel does not open a peace process, we will lose the diplomatic initiative and create the conditions for a hostile initiative."

Two religious deputies humiliated Peres by defecating from his coalition just before parliament held a special session due to approve a Labour-led cabinet to replace caretaker Shamir's right-wing Likud government.

Rabbi Abraham Verdiger and Rabbi Eliezer Mizrahi said they could not back a new government dependent on Arab deputies who supported the PLO.

Aquino rejects rebel truce call

MANILA, April 11, (UPI): President Corason Aquino today rejected a call by legislators for a Holy Week ceasefire with communist rebels, presidential spokesman Tomas Gomez said.

"The ceasefire has been rejected. The Philippine government is ready for any and all contingencies," a statement read by Gomez said. "We will confront, we will engage. Unauthorized movement will be attacked."

Several lawmakers in the house of representatives, led by Rep. Gregorio Andolana, have called for a break in hostilities between government troops and the 19,000-member communist New People's Army, or NPA, during the Easter holidays.

Ramadan timings

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Thursday | |
| Imrak: | 3.53 am |
| Iftar: | 6.13 pm |
| Friday | |
| Imrak: | 3.52 am |
| Iftar: | 6.14 pm |

NEWSWATCH

15 Aids cases in Kuwait: Fifteen new cases of the killer disease Aids have been detected in Kuwait in the last two months bringing the total to 70, a Kuwaiti daily reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper quoted a Health Ministry spokesman as saying all those infected were expatriates. "The new Aids carriers were deported on the spot," the spokesman said.

Symptoms of acquired immune deficiency syndrome were found during tests on incoming foreign labourers, he added.

Arrested for trying to sell son: Detectives posing as Gulf Arabs have arrested a man for trying to sell them his three-year-old son for \$7,500, police sources said on Tuesday.

They said the detectives wore traditional robes and headgear to a meeting with nightwatchman Mohammed Al Mahdi Isa, who offered to sell them his son, Mahmoud.

"He wanted the money to buy a flat, a video recorder and improve his family's standard of living," one source told Reuters.

Gunman kills cop, hijacks taxi: An escaped convict shot dead a West German policeman on Wednesday, hijacked a taxi and seized two pregnant women hostages before driving into Belgium, police said in Aachen, West Germany.

They said Belgian and West German police helicopters were following the commandeered taxi driven by a woman and also carrying her sister. Both women are pregnant, a regional government spokesman said.

Arab fund suit rejected: An appeal court ruled on Tuesday that the Arab Monetary Fund, which is seeking damages against a former director-general now living in Britain, could not sue him in this country.

50 dead in China's north-west unrest: travellers

BEIJING, April 11, (Reuters): Two negotiators sent to calm Islamic unrest in China's remote north-west were killed and in subsequent riots security forces killed about 50 people, Western travellers said yesterday, quoting local police.

But Xinjiang region officials, contacted by telephone from Beijing, repeatedly declined comment on Western media reports that troops had crushed a riot near the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar last week.

In the most detailed version so far of the events, Swedish tourists Jan Arell and Karin

Teghammar said in Beijing that, according to unconfirmed accounts, trouble flared in a town some 50 km (30 miles) from Kashgar.

The trouble began after the local ethnic Kirgiz community had been prevented from building new mosques.

Two Chinese negotiators sent to the town, near Kashgar's airport, were killed after talks hit a deadlock.

Riots then erupted and troops suppressed them, killing about 50 people, the Swedish couple said, quoting well-informed local sources who could not be identified.

The couple said that at the time of the reported unrest they themselves were in the region, capital of Urumqi some 1,000 km (600 miles) away and could not confirm the accounts independently. They did not know the name of the town.

A Western diplomat in Beijing said he had heard similar reports from different sources.

A Xinjiang spokesman in Urumqi told Reuters that telephone interviews were forbidden and that it was not possible to visit the region for the time being.

A Communist Party official in Kashgar told a West German reporter that the unrest had been "suppressed" by Friday.

INTERNATIONAL

Tall tales brighten Filipino tabloids

Dish out fantasy, flamboyance to titillate masses

MANILA, April 11, (AP): Extra, extra, read all about it: Woman gives birth to fish.

If that's too tame, how about randy spooks impregnating maidens? Or perhaps a "routine" appearance by the Virgin Mary?

Such reports are a staple of Manila's lively tabloids, among the most widely read of the city's more than 20 dailies.

In a country where the truth is often bizarre enough, English and Tagalog language tabloids dish out fantasy and flamboyance for those who find the broadsheet dailies too tame.

The latest titillation was the saga of "Goldfish Flores Pascua," a six-inch-long (15-centimetre-long) mudfish supposedly "born" to Lilian Pascua, 22, of Paniquin in Tarlac province.

Several Manila tabloids reported that Mrs Pascua gave birth to the fish on March 31 and named it "Goldfish." Tabloids splashed pictures of "Goldfish," swimming in a water basin, and its "parents," on their front pages.

For several days, tabloids regaled their readers with details of the couple's plans to baptise the fish on Palm Sunday, despite healthy scepticism by local officials.

"I think a fish should not be baptised and registered because it doesn't even have the resemblance of a man," said Panique Mayor Cesar Cuchapin.

The baptism controversy was resolved when tabloids reported last week that "Goldfish's" short but celebrated life had come to an end. It

was eaten by the family dog.

With "Goldfish" history, the tabloid Ang Filipino Ngayon, or Filipino Today, reported yesterday that an 8-year-old boy had given birth by Caesarian section in a hospital in Pampanga province. The baby, a boy, was still-born, the tabloid reported.

Not to be scooped, Manila radio station DZXL telephoned the hospital and spoke with an official, who confirmed that something resembling a foetus had been extracted from the boy.

"How could he give birth when he is only 8 years old," the reporter asked, apparently more curious over the age than the sex peculiarity.

The official was at a loss for a response.

Many of the far-fetched reports play on traditions of mysticism and superstition that run deep in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

"Goldfish" attracted almost as much attention as a teenage girl in Laguna province, who the tabloids reported two years ago became pregnant by the spirit of a 19th century cleric.

Appearances by the Virgin Mary are frequently reported, although the church hierarchy tends to give them little credence. The most recent was reported last year, when the Virgin supposedly appeared in a coconut grove southeast of Manila.

Ties with Manila strong: US

MANILA, April 11, (AP): A senior US official met today with President Corason Aquino and said ties between Manila and Washington continue to be strong.

Asst. Secretary of State Richard Solomon was the first senior American official to meet Aquino since she had refused to meet Defence Secretary Dick Cheney last February because she was angry about critical reporting of her administration in the US media.

"The fundamental is our support of democracy here and we feel there is a strong basis of shared interest in security co-operation and we look forward to negotiations on the bases as part of that broader relationship," Solomon told reporters after his hour-long meeting.

The lease on Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations expires next year. Talks on extending the agreement are scheduled to begin May 14.

Asked for his assessment of US-Philippine ties in view of negative reports about graft and corruption in the Aquino administration, Solomon said: "I think they are basically very solid."

Solomon also said the Soviet military threat was never a primary focus of security co-operation with the Philippines, a former US colony.



Mother and wife mourn the death of family member on Tuesday in Kathmandu after he was killed by soldiers during demonstrations for political reform in Nepal on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Jubilant school girls participated in a victory rally in Kathmandu three days after King Birendra's announcement of political reform. More than a thousand students marched in the capital, their schools closed yesterday after several closed days due to the recent demonstrations and violence. (Reuters wirephoto)

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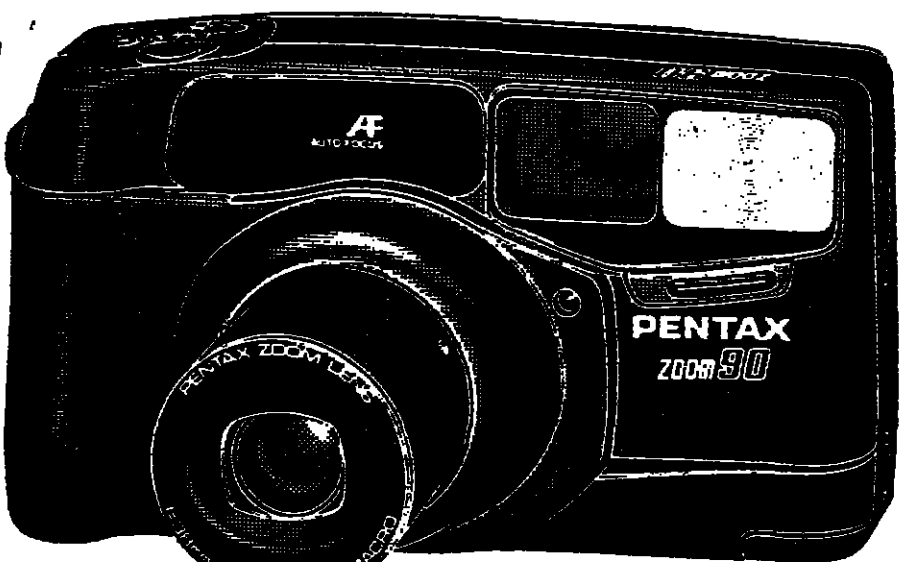
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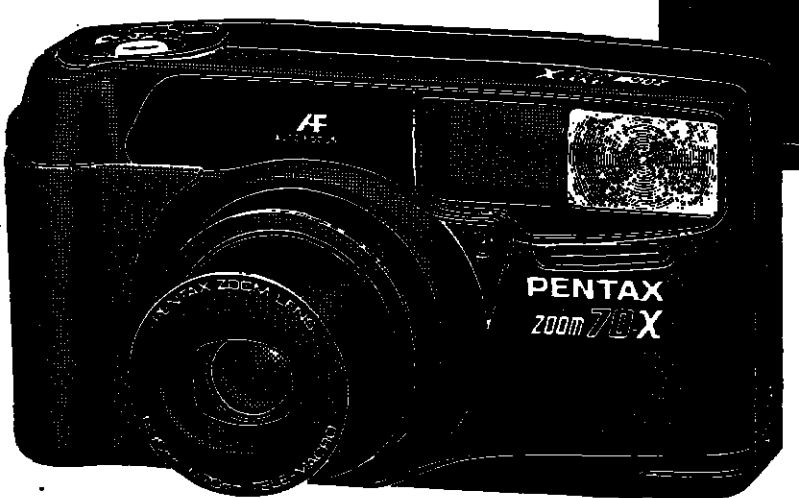
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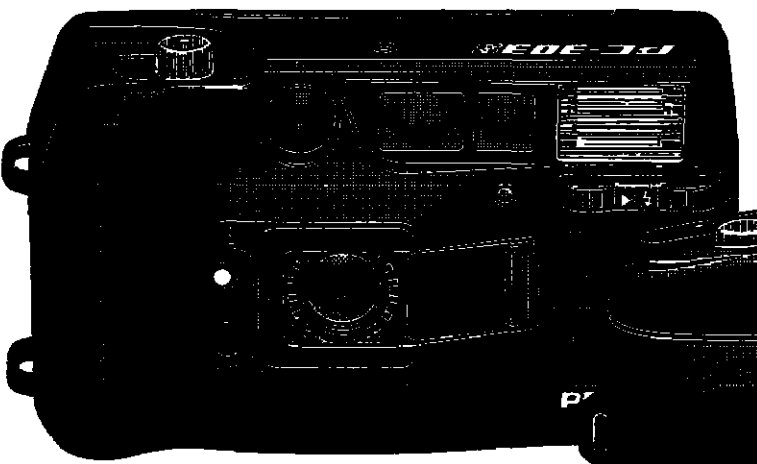
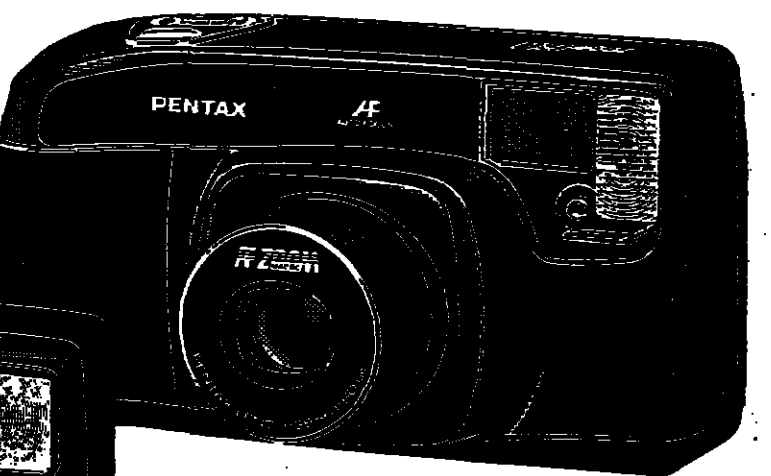
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Nepal king withdraws

Activists to be freed

KATHMANDU, April 11, (AP): King Birendra has withdrawn from active participation in politics and wants the government to heal the wounds caused by a crackdown on Nepal's pro-democracy movement. Foreign Minister Pashupati Rana said today.

Meanwhile, state-run radio announced that all charges would be dropped against activists arrested since the movement began Feb. 18. The opposition estimates about 300 political prisoners are in jail.

Rana's statement was the first on the king's role in Nepal's multi-party system, which Birendra approved on Sunday.

Rana said a centrist party and a left-wing coalition continued negotiations on forming a provisional government.

The Nepali Congress Party and the United Left Front said yesterday they would not participate in the government if the present partyless National Assembly, the Rashtriya Panchayat, was not dissolved. The two parties led the seven-week pro-democracy campaign that forced Birendra to establish a multiparty system.

Political parties were banned in Nepal 29 years ago when the democratically elected government headed by Birendra's father, Mahendra, ended Nepal's only

experiment with a Western-style democracy.

The Nepal Congress Party was underground and committed to a campaign for multiparty democracy. A left-wing coalition joined Nepal Congress on Feb. 18, setting off a popular movement supported by academics, doctors, engineers, pilots and peasants.

A government crackdown ended the movement. The government arrested thousands of activists and killed several.

"We will have a new era of peace and development in Nepal. We will heal these wounds and restore anybody's feelings wherever they are hurt," Rana said.

Rana said the king's withdrawal from active politics, a reference to partyless rule in the situation, has "renewed participation in active politics."

But the state-run radio refused to refer to the government as King Majesty's government, a move that angered the opposition. Rana said "His Majesty's government" had decided to withdraw from active political cases against those arrested during the pro-democracy movement.

To a question on the king's role in the future, Rana said "freedom of expression has been established."

Tigers in talks

First round begins

COLOMBO, April 11, (UPI): Sri Lankan government officials met yesterday with leaders of the Tamil rebel group for the first round of talks since the Indian troops the rebels were fighting left the island nation more than two weeks ago.

The talks were hosted by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was expected to discuss several key issues including the surrender of weapons, the resettlement of refugees and law and order in the nation's northeast provinces.

Premadasa was joined by his defence minister, justice minister and several other top government

officials in holding the talks with the political wing of the major Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Both the Tigers and Sri Lankan law enforcement authorities said they were satisfied that there had been a marked improvement in the law and order situation in the northeast region since Indian troops left March 24.

"It was observed that normalcy was fast being restored and the people were now able to go about their daily pursuits without interruption," a statement from the presidential secretariat said.

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Study reports link between job stress, heart changes

CHICAGO, April 11. (AP) Job stress can lead to high blood pressure and cause potentially dangerous physical changes in the heart, according to a new study of male workers.

The findings are based on a study of 215 men ages 30 to 60 at seven work sites in New York City, including a stock-brokerage firm, private hospital and garbage collection facility, researchers wrote in today's journal of the American medical association.

Job strain resulted when workers felt they faced high psychological demands without having much control over day-to-day

decisions, said Dr Peter Schnall, the lead researcher at Cornell University Medical College in New York.

Twenty-one per cent of the subjects suffered job strain, and faced about a three time greater risk of having high blood pressure than those who did not experience job strain, said Carl Pieper, a Cornell statistician.

All men ages 30 to 40 years old with high-stress jobs had a "clinically significant" thickening of the heart's left ventricle, or chamber, a condition that often precedes coronary disease and heart attacks, Pieper said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Their heart muscles were an average of 20 grams bigger than those without job stress, a substantial difference but still within normal range, Schnall said.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a psychosocial variable based on job characteristics has been found to be related to both hypertension and anatomic increases in heart mass," the researchers wrote.

"If our model is correct, job situations where the level of work demands exceeds the individual's ability to control or deal with those demands creates a challenge that activates the sympathetic nervous system and

leads to an elevation of blood pressure at work.

"Long-term exposure (over years) to job strain is hypothesized to ultimately result in a sustained elevation of blood pressure that then causes structural change in the cardiovascular system," they wrote.

While the notion that psychological factors can physically affect the body is not new, it is viewed with skepticism by some medical authorities, Dr Redford B. Williams of Duke University Medical Centre said in an accompanying editorial.

"If these results are considered along with the growing contributions of neuroscience to our understanding of how the brain speaks to the body's organs, perhaps the idea that the brain plays a role in physical disease will soon seem less 'revolutionary' and more like 'normal science,'" Williams said.

The men studied had all worked in the same job for at least three years, none was more than 20 per cent overweight and none had suffered heart disease before the study began in 1986. Eighty-one per cent were white, the remaining were mostly blacks, and 87 had high blood pressure at the start of the study.

The authors concluded that job strain was "significantly related" to high blood pressure and increased heart mass after adjusting for factors such as age, alcohol intake and smoking.

"We're not showing that job strain is causing heart disease," Schnall said. "What we're showing is that job strain is causing a change in muscle mass" that could lead to disease.

The study, based on data gathered through 1989, is continuing for another five years to determine if the changes are permanent or progressive, he said.

Probers found fault with doors

WASHINGTON, April 11. (AP) An accident that soaked nine United passengers out of a Boeing 747 jet over the Pacific Ocean resulted from failures by the airline, manufacturer and a federal agency to correct problems in cargo doors on 747 airliners, federal investigators said yesterday.

The National Transportation Safety Board voted 3-0 to accept the results of a more than 13-month investigation despite the fact a key piece of evidence in the Feb 24, 1989, incident remains three miles under water: Flight 811's cargo door.

The NTSB said United failed to properly inspect the door after its electrical system failed in December 1988 and mechanics had to operate it manually. The door had been operated electrically since then, however.

Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration were cited for failing to order timely corrective measures after another cargo door partially popped open on a 1987 Pan American jet flying from London to New York. That plane returned safely to London.

On flight 811, the door ripped off at 22,000 feet. A piece of the fuselage was ripped off and the passengers and their seats were sucked out through the hole in the plane.

The plane, en route to New Zealand, returned to Honolulu. Five other passengers were seriously hurt, and 33 had minor injuries. The plane carried a crew of 18 and 337 passengers.

United spokesman Robert Dowdy said the airline had complied with all FAA requirements except in one instance. That occurred after six words mandating an inspection were left out of an FAA regulation when it was copied into the company's system, he said.

Dowdy said that despite the oversight, the door had undergone three inspections since the December 1988 problem was corrected.

"We think the board has done a good job with the evidence and data available," Dowdy said, adding that a better investigation and probable cause could be determined if the door is recovered.

Boeing had recommended that the board conclude that probable cause of the incident could not be determined.

In Seattle, Boeing spokesman Jack Gamble said the company had no comment on the NTSB finding "except to say we feel, No. 1, those cargo doors are safe."

"There were subsequent changes made as a result of the accident, changes and inspection processes. All of the necessary actions have been taken to ensure integrity of that door's operation in flight," Gamble said.

The board said the current cargo door system on 747s can indicate to the pilot that the door is locked when it is not.



Kodiak Bear

A Kodiak bear plays in a pool on a sunny morning at Hamburg's zoo 'Hagenbecks Tierpark'. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iata warns of 'air congestion'

Reorganise or face standstill

GENEVA, April 11. (Reuters) Western Europe must radically reorganise the way it manages airspace or face a near standstill in air traffic by the late 1990s, according to an IATA-sponsored report released yesterday.

The report, commissioned by the International Air Traffic Association (IATA), called for an urgent conference of governments, airlines and international aviation organisations to discuss the problem before it is too late.

"A radical reorganisation of the way in which West European airspace is managed is urgent and essential if the region's air transport system is not to be brought to a near standstill in the late 1990s because of congestion," it said.

The study predicted that the number of air passengers carried each year in Europe would nearly double to 500 million in 2000 from 267 million in 1988. By 2010 the figure could jump to 740 million.

Prepared over two years by researchers SRI International, the document said that by 2000 the losses to national economies due to restrictions on air transport growth would be almost \$10 billion a year if nothing was done.

IATA technical director Norman Jackson estimated at a news conference that it would cost about an extra \$10 billion during the decade to remedy the situation.

In addition to reorganising air corridors and air traffic control, airports must grow, the study said.

"A commitment to timely

implementation of existing airport development plans and the adoption of procedural changes in air traffic control systems will postpone worsening congestion until 2010, except at several critical locations," it said.

Without enhancements, 16 to 27 major airports in Western Europe would not be able to meet forecast demand by the year 2000, the study added.

These airports are, starting with the worst potential cases: Madrid, Frankfurt, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, Barcelona, Milan Linate, Düsseldorf, Dublin, Stockholm Arlanda, Athens, Palma de Mallorca, Geneva, Manchester, Marseille, Copenhagen and Hamburg.

Even with improvements like more terminals, 13 of the 27 were forecast as not able to meet demand by the year 2010.

Commenting on the airspace situation, the report said one of the most serious problems is the increasing complexity of the air traffic control system having to cope with a steadily increasing number of aircraft.

It also pointed to the fast growing number of airway intersections, and called for the creation of new routes to minimize such crossing traffic.

IATA director-general Guenter Eser called for a unified, Europe-wide air traffic control system instead of the 22 or 23 different ones now operating.

He noted that in the United States one system operated for four times as much space as in Western Europe.

Rights of cells in research disputed

LOS ANGELES, April 11. (AP) California's supreme court heard arguments yesterday on whether a leukemia survivor deserves to share profits from an anti-cancer drug made from his cells.

The case pits medical progress against a man's rights to his own body.

"Without my knowledge or consent, the doctors and the research institutions used a part of me for their own gain," John Moore, president of a Seattle soft-drink company, said as he entered the courtroom.

"They stole something from me," he said.

Moore, 45, said he sued the University of California, two researchers and two biotechnology and drug companies to defend "the rights of the individual patient in the case where the physician-researcher is also a businessman-entrepreneur."

Hinder Industrial Biotechnology Association lawyer Gary Ritchey, who filed a friend-of-the-court brief opposing Moore's lawsuit, said outside court that development of vital new medicines will be hindered if the court rules that Moore has a property interest in cells and tissues removed from his body.

"Research is conducted for the benefit of the public," Allen Wagner, attorney for the University of California, told the high court. "If Moore succeeds, he will infuse a private interest that will restrain the course and direction of research."

Moore was an Alaska pipeline surveyor in 1976 when he sought treatment for hairy cell leukemia at the University of California-Los Angeles. Dr David Golde removed Moore's spleen, the standard treatment for the rare leukemia, and his disease went into remission.

After the spleen was removed, Golde discovered it contained unique blood cells that produced a blood protein called GM-CSF, now in experimental use as a drug to stimulate the immune system to fight certain cancers and possibly Aids.

Moore's attorney, Sanford Gage, said Moore was never told his cells had great potential value. Yet for nearly seven years, Golde and others brought Moore from Seattle to Los Angeles for blood and other tests while they developed Moore's cells into a self-perpetuating cell line to mass-produce GM-CSF.

In 1984, UCLA received a patent for the cell line, naming Golde and research assistant Shirley Quan as the inventors. The same year, Moore sued University of California regents, Golde, Quan, Genetics Institute Inc., and Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp.

HARTFORD, Connecticut: Two union workers who took part in a strike at a Colt Manufacturing Co. plant that lasted more than four years celebrated the end of the walkout by exchanging vows.

Ed Vargas, a justice of the peace, called it a "marriage made in union heaven."

"We waited until the end of the strike," said Carmen Diaz, 42, who was married to David Burnham, 45, in front of a surprised, cheering crowd at a union auto workers celebration Saturday evening.

Diaz said she could not have picked a better place to hold the ceremony than with her union buddies.

The strike, which began on January 24, 1986, officially ended March 22 when a buyout agreement was announced which makes the striking workers co-owners of the plant along with Colt managers, the state of Connecticut and private investors. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Flutist James Galway's eyes sparkle at the mention of his operatic debut in the role of Rossini's "The Thieving Magpie" in its first US performance in this century.

"I didn't study birds for years to this I studied music," said Galway, 50, who is basing his stage roles on his observation of the chattering, black and white bird.

Rossini wrote the opera using an actor as the magpie who stole the silver spoon and caused a young servant girl to be sentenced to death, but the opera company of Philadelphia revised the role for a musician.

The rolling notes Galway plays as he flits about the stage were borrowed from passages Rossini wrote for the violin and flute as parts of the orchestra down in the pit. (AP)

GREEN RIVER, Wyoming: Actor Harrison Ford, whose breathtaking chase scenes have characterized his role as film adventurer Indiana Jones, stopped in this southern Wyoming town last week and quietly bought a new motorcycle.

Linda Stance, a clerk at the Harley-Davidson of Green River motorcycle shop, said Ford spent about 45 minutes Thursday buying a 1990 black and cream Heritage model Harley.

Stance said Ford, who owns land near Jackson, called earlier in the week to ask if the shop carried the motorcycle. To the clerk, the bike was available, he said he would fly to the Rock Springs airport and would need a lift to the shop. (AP)

EAST LANSING, Michigan: A fluffy, white arctic fox was shy enough to escape from Potter park zoo but freedom apparently did not mean much to her.

The fox, named Aspen, escaped early Friday by tunneling under three fences.

Curator Kelly Ann Whitney spotted Aspen last the same day in downtown East Lansing, and the 5-year-old fox hid up to her and sat whimpering at her feet.

"I was sick when I came to work and found out she was missing," Whitney said. "We thought she'd been hit by a car or injured. And then all of sudden there she was."

"I just scooped her up and took her back to the zoo." (AP)

GALLATIN GATEWAY, Montana: Media mogul Ted Turner attracted hundreds of farmers, ranchers and bargain-hunters to an auction of surplus equipment from his extensive holdings in southwest Montana.

Saturday's auction, which offered everything from diesel tractors and hay bales to irrigation pipe as he converts his Flying D Ranch from cattle to raising buffalo and trophy elk.

The Flying D earlier sold about 11,000 cattle and began cutting back on growing hay at higher elevations to make room for the 3,000 to 4,000 buffalo that Turner wants to let roam, said ranch manager Bud Griffith. (AP)

LONDON: The revival of the American play "Bus Stop," which marked the London stage debut of actress-model Jerry Hall is closing May 6 due to poor business, producer Michael White said Tuesday.

Ms. Hall, the long-time companion of Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, plays Cherie, the failed "Cham-Tooze" portrayed in the 1956 film of the play by Marilyn Monroe. The production, co-starring Sherry Cassidy, opened Feb 28 to mixed-to-poor reviews at the Lyric Theatre on the West End.

White declined to announce the amount of money the show has lost. (AP)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

US researchers say Willpower can outwit death

CHICAGO, April 11. (Reuters) Willpower may be able to cheat death when people want to go on living to celebrate major events in their lives, US researchers said yesterday.

A study of elderly Chinese women in California found abnormally low death rates in the week before a major family festival, followed by an equally abnormal rise in natural death's once the event has passed.

Researchers at the University of California in San Diego said the finding appears to verify an earlier study which found that some Jews were able to delay their deaths until after Passover observances were finished.

"Indeed there is some preliminary evidence indicating that there is also a dip peak around the observance of an individual's birthday or other personally meaningful occasion," they said in a report published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The California study involved the deaths of

Chinese women aged 75 and older during the time of the harvest moon festival, an important family-centred celebration in which the oldest woman in the family directs younger women and serves as the focal point for a holiday meal.

The Chinese festival was chosen, the researchers said, because it occurs on different dates each year, runs for a specific time period, and provided an easy comparison with deaths which occurred among non-Chinese during the period.

The study found that in the week before the festival there were 35.1 per cent fewer deaths among the Chinese women than among non-Chinese in the same age group. In the week after the festival ended, they said, the death rate among the Chinese women was 34.6 per cent higher than would normally be expected.

"The current study suggests that positive psychological processes have beneficial effects on mortality," the researchers said.



Prince Philip giving Pope a book at the end of a private audience. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pope sees Prince Philip

VATICAN CITY, April 11. (AP) Pope John Paul II met yesterday with Prince Philip, the husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and President of the World-wide Fund for Nature.

The Italian news agency Agi and the World-wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said the private audience focused on saving the environment.

The WWF quoted the Pope, who is also the Duke of Edinburgh, as saying the environmental organisation and the Roman Catholic church would "co-operate" in future to protect nature.

Prince Philip asked the Pope to convert church property to protected areas for wildlife and to speak out on urgent environmental issues, such as trafficking in endangered species and the destruction of the oceans.

The Pope has condemned pollution and urged respect for nature in several speeches in recent years.

Digging Pepy queens pyramids Archaeologists seek answers

SOUTH SAKKARA, Egypt, April 10. (AP) More than 4,200 years ago Pharaoh Pepy I heard rumours that one of his three queens was plotting against him. He sent Weni the scribe to find out.

Weni did. History didn't.

But now a French-Egyptian archaeological team, digging and recording a queenly pyramid field 20 miles (32 kms) south of Cairo, is on its way to writing the final chapter on one of ancient Egypt's most tantalizing stories.

"We have mention (in ancient texts) of three Pepy queens, and now we have three burials," said Bulgarian-born Egyptologist Vassil Dobrev, a member of the excavation team headed by French historian Jean Leclant. "As we search on, we'll find the answers."

Which was the questionable queen? Weni went to his grave with the secret, leaving a record of his investigation that ended: "I know the truth."

The scribe's silence did nothing to enhance the Pharaoh's reputation. Egyptologists remember Pepy I, who died in 2255 BC after a 34-year reign, as a shrewd leader who kept Egypt's troublesome colonies in line but failed to exercise the same hold over the queens of his harem.

The reopened investigation has been far from easy. Early grave robbers, furious peasants revolting against the Pharaoh's authority and generations of stone robbers have left few clues intact. The pyramids of Pepy's queens were so ransacked that restorers work alongside archaeologists to minimize the danger of falling walls.

Generations of sympathetic tomb artists depicted ancient Egyptian queens "as perfect mates: beautiful, submissive, adoring."

But Zahi Hawass, director of the Pharaonic cemeteries of Giza and Sakakara to the south, said the story of Pepy and his allegedly conspiratorial queen shows ancient marriages weren't all picture perfect.

Especially since Pharaohs had to deal with wives in multiples and in varying levels of importance, some major queens, some minor.

A Pharaoh's chief queen, consort of a god, received special privileges, including the title "great royal wife." Because of the number of fellow royal offspring, a young Pharaoh-to-be often married his sister for a more legitimate right to the throne.

A few queens even managed to rule Egypt.

"We can understand the queen's importance by their tombs," said director Hawass. "The largest was the Pharaoh's tomb. After all, he ruled Egypt. His tomb had to show that power."

"But directly after his tomb in size came the queens', then the princes', then the nobles' and officials'. A cemetery easily shows their ranks in life."

With so much riding on succession, allegations of a palace conspiracy by a main queen was taken

seriously, so seriously that Weni was allowed inside the forbidden harem to investigate the rumours.

But Hawass said Weni left no record of the suspect queen's name, referring to her only as a "main consort" of the Pharaoh.

Until the current expedition, the only names of Pepy's wives known were those of Ankh-Nes-Meryre I, then when she died, Ankh-Nes-Meryre II. Both were recorded by an official named Khui, who said the king married two of his family members. It's unlikely either sister would have been the main queen, however. Their blood was royal enough.

So who was Pepy's black queen?

The joint expedition, just ending this season's digging, first came in 1965 to south Sakakara, site of the pyramids of Pepy I and his Pharaoh sons Merenre and Pepy II.

It was task to record the last of the old kingdom's great pyramid complexes on the edge of a three-square-mile (seven-square-kilometre) stretch of desert graves spanning 3,000 years. Pepy's pyramids proved particularly important because of intricately carved texts of spells, rituals and myths designed to help propel the soul of the dead into the afterlife.

For two decades archaeologists were too busy to look for his queens, but by 1988 high technology was available to help in the search. Experts combed 50 acres (20 hectares) of rubble-strewn dunes adjacent to Pepy's pyramid with ultrasound equipment developed in France to locate suitable sites for nuclear reactors.

Soundings monitored by technicians from the French utility company revealed three good possibilities: a small pyramid, a large one and out came two queens' pyramids.

Then last year a portion of a third pyramid was found, wedged between the first two and roughly the same size, about 6 feet (20 metres) tall.

Three pyramids. Three queens.

Early this year diggers began excavating the third pyramid, uncovering pottery shards, a chapel, a passageway and finally a dishevelled burial chamber.

By the time digging ended on March 28, there were two important clues that could help solve the mystery of the accused queen.

One was the name Nab-Unet of wall reliefs, a queen unknown to Egyptologists, perhaps the royal wife Weni had described. She was buried in the pyramid.

The second clue was an empty basalt sarcophagus, its lid buried beneath two massive boulders that once closed the newly excavated burial chamber of the middle pyramid.

Egyptologist Dobrev hopes the lid, once uncovered, might contain the name of the queen and something about her, but finding out is next season's work.

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Women don't mean 'no' when it comes to sex, says UK judge

LONDON, April 11. (AP) An Old Bailey jury cleared a West German man of rape charges yesterday after a judge told jurors that a woman who says "no" does not necessarily mean it.

"When women say no they don't always mean no," Judge Raymond Dean told the jurors in summing up the case. "Men can't turn their emotions on and off like a tap as some women can."

German businessman Dieter Kemp, 39, testified that the alleged rape victim had consented to have sex with him at his west London apartment after drinking three bottles of champagne, some sake and smoking marijuana.

The woman testified that Kemp had raped her despite her protests.

After hearing Dean's instructions to the jury, a four-hour party lawmaker Audrey Wise said Kemp should be removed from the bench.

"A man who can say that when it comes to

sexual intercourse is not competent to be a judge," she said.

Kemp maintained the 29-year-old woman accused him of rape after he refused to pay her 10,000 pounds (\$16,400) and would not allow her and her boyfriend to move into his apartment.

No forensic evidence was submitted to the jury, but they heard that police found no bruising on the woman's body or any traces of tears on her clothing.

Kemp's lawyer said his client was not competent to be a judge.

World News Roundup

Telescope rests

Shuttle hits snag

CAPE CANAVERAL, April 11, (AP): It should have been orbiting 380 miles (610 kilometres) high today and looking at the heavens, but instead the \$1.5-billion Hubble space telescope rests inside the space shuttle Discovery, shielded from earthly dust and debris.

The shuttle's launch was scrubbed for minutes before liftoff yesterday because of a malfunctioning power unit. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the mission will be attempted again in a week or two. The space agency needs the time to replace the unit and recharge the telescope's batteries.

"We are certainly concerned about contamination every day that we're here on earth, and we will do everything we have done in the past to assure that we take care of any problem like this," said Fred Wojtalik, a NASA project manager.

Hubble has a 94-inch (240-centimetre) mirror that is the finest ever made and even a speck of dust would impair its efficiency. The telescope is being stored underneath a protective cover within the sealed shuttle.

The delay was the latest of many for Hubble. NASA's most expensive and complex telescope, the telescope originally was scheduled to take its place in space in 1983, but technical problems and the 1986 Challenger explosion interfered.

Wojtalik said NASA had not decided whether to charge the telescope's nickel-hydrogen batteries while they are inside the orbiter or at a laboratory.

America

Men close in on population gap: The census bureau said Tuesday that the number of men grew faster than the number of women in the 1980s in the United States, something that hasn't happened since the first decade of this century.

Death rates for men declined more rapidly than for women, extending male life spans and allowing the population to increase more rapidly than women, the new study disclosed.

Cancer deaths increased among women while dropping for men. Increased smoking by women beginning in the 1960s is a likely factor in the change, a census expert said. (AP)

Johnson's widow won't read book: Lady Bird Johnson said Tuesday that some of the things written about her husband would make her angry if she read them, so "the simplest thing is not to read them."

That was the closest the widow of President Lyndon B. Johnson, came to commenting on the furor over Robert Caro's biography of Johnson, "Means of Ascent."

Mrs. Johnson made the comment while meeting with reporters before a speech winding up a Johnson administration reunion. (AP)

Toxic pollutants in great lakes: A U.S.-Canadian commission on Tuesday issued what the chairman said was its strongest warning to date that toxic pollution of the great lakes is endangering human health.

"The mounting evidence cannot be denied," said the report by the international joint commission, which oversees major water bodies shared by the United States and Canada. It urged both nations to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to rid the lakes of toxic chemicals.

"Despite the significance of the great lakes and our collective rhetoric to restore and enhance them, we as a society continue to mortgage their future by poisoning, suffocating and otherwise threatening them," the report said. (AP)

Radiation exposure on the rise: Latest figures show the highest number ever of incidents of worker exposure to measurable radiation at the nation's nuclear power plants, a consumer group said Tuesday in Washington.

The study by an Energy Research project of Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, found 105,265 instances of worker exposure to measurable radiation at the commercial nuclear reactors in 1988. (AP)

Word of new drug not getting out: Patients with spinal cord injuries may not be getting a new treatment that reduces paralysis because federal health officials have not sent research data to physicians, a consumer advocacy group said Tuesday in Washington.

The public citizen health research group called it a "colossal failure of communication" and said that "any further delay in notifying all emergency rooms about this is recklessly irresponsible." (AP)

6 kids die in trailer fire: Fire that roared through a house trailer early Tuesday morning killed six children ranging in age from 9 months to 12 years in Larose, Louisiana.

Another fire in Delaware killed five family members.

In the trailer, "one body was found in the hallway leading to the bathroom, one in the kitchen and four were in a bedroom," said detective Paul Lirette, of the Lafourche Parish sheriff's department. The cause of the fire was under investigation. (AP)

Townhouse blaze kills 5: A fire raced through a townhouse Tuesday, claiming the lives of a young couple, their son and two daughters, authorities said in Glasgow, Delaware.

The only member of the family left alive was 6-year-old girl, who had already left for school when the blaze broke out at the central Delaware home around 8 a.m. (1:00 GMT), said state fire Marshal J. Benjamin Roy. (AP)

Harvard class of 40 admire Gorbachev: Former classmates in Harvard College's class of 1940 admire the late US President John Kennedy less than Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kennedy, president from 1961 to 1963, did not even make the top 10 in the poll asking class members which figures of the last 50 years they admired most. (Reuters)

Pre-Passover ritual dampened: When a group of Hasidic Jews set fire to a brick in a Passover eve ritual on a street in New York's borough of Brooklyn, firefighters rode up and doused the flames.

The Satmar sect Hasidim, prayer books in hand, protested, but to no avail.

John Mulligan, a fire department spokesman, said the firefighters were right to hose down the burning leaves Monday night. (AP)

Memorials show cracks, wear: Washington's famed Lincoln and Jefferson memorials are suffering from cracks and wear and need \$12 million of work, officials in the US Capitol said on Tuesday.

But the officials say little danger to the 2.5 million tourists who annually visit the monuments — huge marble structures containing statues. (Reuters)

Continuing investigations: Government prosecutors in Washington, flush with victory after seeing former Reagan administration aide John Poindexter convicted on all charges, now are considering leads in other similar cases, insiders said Tuesday.

Poindexter was Reagan's national security adviser and met almost daily with the president. (Kuna)

Asia

Mahathir calms fears: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday that religious freedom in Malaysia was not under threat from the introduction of strict Islamic laws.

"As far as Islamic law is concerned, it applies only to Muslims. It is not a law for the whole country," Mahathir was quoted as saying by the official Bernama news agency. (Reuters)

Video on Tiananmen massacre: Singers Parti Labelle, Richie Havens and Ashford and Simpson joined other musicians Tuesday to record a music video in tribute to the hundreds of students killed last year in China's Tiananmen Square massacre.

The video, to be released June 4 — the date that marks the first anniversary of the brutal crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in China — is the brainchild of a Chinese-American musician, Philip Woo, who said he felt young people in the United States need to be enlightened about the tragedy. (UPI)

Pueblo crew to get POW medal: The crew of the USS Pueblo long ineligible for POW medals despite their 11-month captivity in North Korea during the Vietnam war, will finally be formally honoured as Prisoners of War, the department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday in San Diego.

The belated recognition was made possible by a congressional amendment signed by President George Bush in December after protests over the crew's exclusion from a 1988 POW ceremony, said Daniel Emer, regional VA director. (UPI)



Members of the Colombian Intelligence and Security Agency (DAS) force confessed killer Gustavo Mesa (left) to pose for the press. Mesa confessed to killing a journalist last year and is believed to have taken part in the assassination of presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Killing for as little as \$40

Slums breed 'sicarios'

MEDELLIN, Colombia, April 11, (Reuters): On the hillsides surrounding the cocaine capital of Medellin lie the slums which supply Colombia's drug lords with a labour force for their dirty work.

The cramped settlements are breeding grounds for the dreaded 'sicarios' or hired assassins, who for a small price will kill anybody — policeman, judge, journalist or politician.

Frequently contracted by the drug traffickers to kill anyone who stands in their way, the sicarios are on the frontline of Colombia's drug war which has claimed more than 220 lives since the government cracked down on the illegal drug trade last August.

"A generation lives here which doesn't know what it is to die of old age," said an army major in charge of a night-time crime sweep in Aranjuez, one of the most notorious neighbourhoods for sicarios.

Usually aged between 15 and 20, the sicarios will do anything to escape grinding poverty, often killing for as little as \$40.

Their trademark is to shoot at their victims from a motorbike and then speed off. Few of their crimes are solved.

The accused murderer of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo, gunned down at Bogota's main airport last month, was a 15-year-old who grew up in a working class Medellin suburb.

Police blamed sicarios hired by drug barons for the murder of 18 policemen last week in Medellin, home of the famous cartel which supplies much of the cocaine used in the United States.

Aranjuez, to the northeast of Medellin, is no man's land for strangers after 5 pm, except for the soldiers who periodically sweep the neighbourhoods in search of assassins.

Until recently, Pablo Escobar, reputed head of the Medellin cocaine cartel, was often seen in Aranjuez. Now hunted by the authorities, Escobar is referred to here by the title, "Don Pablo."

The violence in Aranjuez can be felt in the harsh stares of the 14- and 15-year-old youths loitering in the streets. They carry guns and are ready to use them.

Army trucks roll into the neighbourhood and cord off a street. Soldiers storm the bars, separate them men from the women and ask for documents. A few are arrested.

US delegation for Singapore: A seven-member US congressional delegation is scheduled to arrive in Singapore later Wednesday in the course of an Asia-Pacific tour to seek alternative sites for American military bases in the Philippines.

The delegation will be led by Colorado representative Patricia Schroeder, who heads the subcommittee on military installations and facilities of the House Armed Services Committee. (Kuna)

Drug trafficker gets death: The high court in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Monday sentenced a man to death after finding him guilty of trafficking in marijuana.

Judge Mohd Abdullah said he was satisfied that Azizi bin Mohamad, 26, had failed to cast any doubt on the prosecution's case, the national news agency Bernama reported.

Azizi was convicted on Oct 26, 1986. (AP)

Latin America

UN peacekeeping troops: UN peacekeeping troops have arrived in Honduras to begin disbanding the Nicaraguan rebels.

Meanwhile, the leftist Sandinistas warned there could be renewed fighting.

A contingent of 170 Venezuelan paratroopers arrived Tuesday in Honduras, where the rebels, known as Contras, have been camped.

Their Spanish commander Gen. Augustin Quesada Gomez, said Venezuela will send a total of 700 soldiers. They will be joined by troops from several other countries. (AP)

Cheney launches probe: US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has ordered an investigation into why he was not told that a 2,000-pound (900-kg) bomb missed its target in Panama after it was dropped by a US "Stealth" fighter, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

Cheney, unaware of the missed target, reportedly praised the pinpoint accuracy of the air force's high technology F-117A fighter jet during the US invasion of Panama on December 20. (Reuters)

Worry over police violence: The newly appointed police chief of the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo, where policemen kill hundreds of people every year, said on Tuesday that the most serious problem he faced was police violence.

In an interview with the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo's public security secretary, Antonio Mariz, barely mentioned criminals. "My great worry today is the violence practised by the police," Mariz said. (Reuters)

Brazil to auction cars: Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello on Tuesday ordered the auction of 2,000 government cars as part of his austerity programme.

Immediately after he gave the order, hundreds of official cars were driven to a car park near the presidential palace to await the auction, which is set for May 19. (Reuters)

Colombia police, rebels clash: Leftist rebels attacked a village in northeastern Colombia, killing six police agents and destroying the police station before reinforcements retook the town early Tuesday, authorities said.

Authorities said they have no information on civilian casualties, but a military spokesman told United Press International seven rebels died in battles with the police agents after the night-long occupation. (UPI)

Venezuela prison riots: Rival factions of inmates armed with knives and sharpened iron rods battled for three hours on Tuesday in a western Venezuelan prison.

An official said that six inmates were stabbed to death and two others were severely injured before calm was restored in the Santa Ana prison. (AP)

Mexican doctor pleads innocent: A Mexican physician indicted in the torture-slaying of US drug agent Enrique Camarena pleaded innocent today to murder charges Tuesday and told the judge, "I want to prove I am a good man."

US District Judge Edward Rafeedie ordered Humberto Alvarez Machain, 42, a gynaecologist from Guadalajara, held without bail. (UPI)



Off to the market

A villager takes his son off to the market in Purwakarta, West Java April 8. On his return the baskets will be filled with vegetables to be sold door-to-door in his village. (Reuters wirephoto)

Breakthrough: A series of experiments has shown that a Chinese herbal medicine may be able to ease the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, a type of senile dementia, a Japanese medical team confirmed Tuesday.

Experiments on rats by a research team led by professor Michihiro Fujiwara of Fukuoka University showed that the herbal compound, called Toki Shakyaku-san, improves spatial perception disorders, a typical symptom of senile dementia. (Kuna)

NZ islands rocked by quakes: An earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter Scale rocked the lower south island on Wednesday, about four hours after a smaller quake was felt in the lower north island. It was reported in New Zealand.

The southern earthquake, at 9.45 a.m. (2145 GMT Tuesday), appeared centred in Fiordland, department of science and technology seismologist Murray Lowry said.

The northern earthquake measured 4.5 and occurred at 5.46 a.m. (1746 GMT Tuesday). It was centred north of Wellington, the capital. (AP)

Hot-air balloon flight over Everest: A three-man Japanese team will attempt the world's first hot-air balloon flight from Tibet to Nepal over Mount Everest in early May, the group said Tuesday.

Michio Kanda, 40, the team's leader, said the 70 million-yen (\$443,000) adventure is to dramatise international good will and environmental problems, particularly deforestation. (AP)

Tornado kills 16 people: A tornado and hailstorm in southern China's Guangdong province killed 16 people, according to an official newspaper seen in Beijing on Wednesday.

The Yangcheng Evening News said the storm Monday afternoon hit coastal Yangliang City and surrounding towns. The tornado rained huge hailstones. (AP)

3 lost in avalanche: Leaders of a Himalayan mountaineering expedition that lost three members to an avalanche said Tuesday weather and political conditions in Nepal could delay other team members from recovering the bodies and returning home.

Don Goodman, leader of the 9-member expedition to climb 26,775-foot (8,161 m) Manaslu, the world's eighth tallest peak, said it could take a week or more before team members still in Nepal can get word out on whether they were able to recover the bodies of their dead comrades. (UPI)

Does penalty help curbing?

Drug abuse

LONDON, April 11, (AP): Does punishment help curb drug abuse? The United States says yes. The Netherlands says no.

The opposing approaches to dealing with drug users surfaced yesterday at an international drug summit attended by more than 800 delegates from 112 countries.

Casual drug use in the US is down dramatically, and US drug official Herbert Kleber said stripping drugs of glamour and holding users accountable for their actions is a major reason why. Kleber is deputy director of demand reduction in the office of national drug control policy.

Both casual and heavy users know drugs are illegal, he said, and the consequences range from suspending a pilot's license to expulsion from school or imprisonment.

A Netherlands official disagrees with that "war on drugs" approach.

Eddy L. Engelsman, head of the alcohol, drugs and tobacco branch of the ministry of welfare, public health and cultural affairs, said treating drug users like smokers or alcoholics has helped keep drug use extremely low.

In the Netherlands, he said, marijuana is sold in coffee bars and small-scale users of cannabis and other drugs are not prosecuted, which the government believes would push them underground and aggravate the drug problem.

"We hold the view that drug use is not primarily a problem for police and the courts, but rather a matter of public health and social well-being," he said. "Instead of a 'war on drugs,' we prefer to wage a war against underdevelopment, deprivation and lack of socio economic status."

Engelsman said the message that drugs are bad for your health has gotten home to Dutch youngsters. Only 2 percent in the age group up to 19 years old used marijuana during the last month, and less than half a percent used heroin and cocaine.

Kleber said the effectiveness of the Dutch policy won't be fully tested until the arrival of a "tidal wave of cocaine" he predicts will arrive soon in Europe.

Princess Anne, president of the save the children fund and the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, urged delegates to show their countries that "the evils of drugs are not inevitable for all time."



Princess Anne

Visa imposed

Big no to drug link

BANGKOK, April 11, (UPI): Thailand hopes to stop Nigerian drug connections by imposing visa requirements for Nigerians after dozens of them were arrested on narcotics trafficking charges, the Thai deputy foreign minister said yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prapass Limpaphaeng said Thailand will impose visa requirements for Nigerians for saving Thailand in a bid to prevent drug trafficking.

Most of the world's heroin is produced in neighbouring Burma, in the region known as the Golden Triangle. Although Thailand largely eradicated heroin production on its own soil in the past eight years, it remains the main conduit for the export of of Burmese heroin to Western users.

Prapass said a committee of officials from various ministries regularly met to find the way to stop the Nigeria connection.

"In the future they (Nigerians) must get visas before entering our country," said Prapass. He said the Interior Ministry will seek further approval from the cabinet.

Thai police reported that since the beginning of this year more than 40 Nigerians have been arrested and police and customs officials seized about 220 pounds (100 kg) of heroin from these African suspects.

The conference, which began Monday, is sponsored by Britain and the United Nations.

Llosa not to drop out of the race

Rumours ruled out

LIMA, Peru, April 11, (AP): Alberto Fujimori, who is to face Mario Vargas Llosa in a runoff election for president, visited the novelist at home yesterday afternoon, in a confidential meeting.

Meanwhile, people close to Vargas Llosa denied rumours he is considering dropping out of the race to allow Fujimori to assume the presidency on July 28.

Fujimori, 51, staged a stunning performance in Sunday's election, achieving a close second to Vargas Llosa, who some thought would capture a majority in the first round to avoid a runoff.

According to the latest, unofficial results, Vargas Llosa got 32 per cent of the vote, slightly more than Fujimori's 29 per cent. Official results are not expected for two weeks.

A month ago Fujimori, an agronomist of Japanese descent, scored barely five per cent in the polls.

"There will be a second round (of elections)," Sen. Enrique Chirinos assured reporters after meeting with Vargas Llosa yesterday morning.

Chirinos was re-elected to the Senate on Sunday after running as a candidate for Vargas Llosa's centre-right Democratic Front coalition. He is one of the writer's closest confidants in the coalition.

Fujimori met with Vargas Llosa and Democratic Front leaders for about 15 minutes yesterday afternoon, but did not speak to reporters. His office said he had no plans to meet with the media.

Fujimori on Monday proposed a meeting between the two presidential candidates and President Alan Garcia to discuss preparations for the transfer of power.

"It's necessary that the coming transfer of power be an orderly process that takes place under the best conditions," Fujimori said.

He also called on the Garcia government to adjust its economic policies in the remaining months. Opposition leaders have complained that the populist Garcia government is spending the central bank's few remaining funds and could leave the next government broke.

Fujimori has been slow to define what he would do as president, offering vague social goals rather than specific plans.

On economic issues he said he would not sell off the large, money-losing state companies such as Petropetro, the state oil company, and Aeroperu, the state airline.

Vargas Llosa said he would privatise all government-owned companies. He said he would slash the government bureaucracy and "shift" workers to the public sector, a plan Fujimori criticised.

Leaders within Peru's leftist parties, including Garcia's left-of-centre Aprista party, have said they would support Fujimori in the second round. That support could be enough to give the Japanese-Peruvian a runoff victory, which could be held in late May or early June.

Fujimori said he would not make pacts with other parties, but would "leave it up to citizens to freely decide the meaning and orientation of their votes."

After Sunday's voting, Vargas Llosa invited Fujimori to meet with him to find a way to avoid a second round.



Aurelius returns

The ancient equestrian statue of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius finally restored after a bureaucratic odyssey lasting almost a decade, returns to its home atop the Capitoline hill Wednesday.

The second-century statue, considered a prime example of Roman realism, will be put in place inside the Capitoline museum. It will go on public display beginning April 21.

Inside, surrounded by a clear plastic and a climate-controlled environment, the bronze larger-than-life statue will be protected from the pollution which forced its removal from the centre of the Michelangelo-designed piazza for restoration on Jan 17, 1981.

Picture above shows an expert giving the last touches to the statue. (Reuters wirephoto)

Texas governor's race

Richards beats Mattox

AUSTIN, Texas, April 11, (AP): Texas state treasurer Ann Richards has defeated attorney general Jim Mattox to claim the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Ms. Richards, who has a chance to become the first woman in Texas to be governor since Democratic Governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson in the 1920s, will duel with Republican oilman-rancher Clayton Williams in November.

With 87 per cent of the precincts reporting, Ms. Richards, the 1988 Democratic national convention keynote speaker, had 552,021 votes, or 56.2 per cent, to Mattox's 430,231, or 43.8 per cent in yesterday's election.

Africa

Black squatter shacks demolished: A right-wing South African municipality demolished 62 black squatter shacks on Tuesday in a dawn raid which a human rights lawyer called a reprisal against apartheid reforms.

Police armed with rifles surrounded the Bloekombos squatter settlement in Kraaifontein, a conservative white area about 30 km (20 miles) outside Cape Town.

They held scores of angry black residents back from the shacks while municipal workers searched through the flimsy structures of wood, plastic and tin and piled personal belongings outside.

The people were given a few minutes to collect their things before two yellow bulldozers flattened their homes. (Reuters)

Mobutu to announce changes: Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko will soon announce radical changes in the country's political system, the Belgian news agency Belga reported on Wednesday.

It quoted the official news agency (Azap) in the former Belgian colony as saying Mobutu planned "a radical shakeup of the Zairean political landscape."

Mobutu said last month there could be changes in the one-party state, but gave no details or time-scale. He declined to say then whether he would introduce a multi-party system.

Belga said the announcement would be made to people's representatives from across the country on April 24.

The Central African state became independent in 1960 and Mobutu's presidential system has been in place for almost 20 years. (Reuters)

UNCN to dissolve: The United Nations Council for Namibia (UNCN), for years barred from operating in Namibia by the country's former South African rulers, met here for the first time on Monday to vote itself out of existence.

The UNCN, set up as an alternative government to Pretoria's rule, will dissolve on Wednesday after a three-day meeting in Windhoek, opened by Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Namibia gained independence from South Africa in March after decades of international wrangling and a 23 year bush war fought by the South Africa's People's Organisation, which won UN supervised elections in the country last November. (Reuters)

Police search for clues to ship fire

Suspicious of arson strengthen

STOCKHOLM, April 11. (AP) Police searched through files of known arsonists and through the black shell of the ferry Scandinavian Star yesterday for clues to the weekend fire that killed around 200 people. Investigators in Sweden's west coast port of Lysekil said entire decks were literally vaporised and it may be impossible to pinpoint physical evidence on how the blaze started.

In Oslo, Norwegian police who took charge of the case said they were searching for one or more arsonist, but they were unsure whether the

perpetrator died in the flames that engulfed the 10,500-ton ship en route from Norway to Denmark.

"I believe we will be able to discover whoever was behind the fire," said Magnus Aukrust, the assistant city police chief. "We have some detailed information, but we have not yet committed our resources in a specific direction."

"We have no specific person as a suspect. But suspicions of arson were strengthened by the technical investigation on board," said

Aukrust's deputy, Arne Huuse. Aukrust said about a third of the rescued passengers and crew have been questioned so far in the hunt for a suspect.

Oslo police were to publish a list of 186 people considered missing from the estimated 534 people who boarded the doomed ship. The figures were fluctuating as people considered missing reported in, said Oystein Berger, a senior police officer.

Police opened the final cabins for inspection yesterday, three days after the smoldering ship was towed into port. They said the devastation will make it difficult to identify the victims, or even to accurately count them.

More than 120 bodies were recovered, and "the bodies left on board are so badly burned you can put them in a teacup," said police inspector Leif Skoglund.

"I went on the ship this afternoon. It was terrible," he said. About 20 bodies were prone in the corridor, people who succumbed to the poisonous smoke as they tried to flee.

"A lot of people had hidden in the shower or the toilet," Skoglund said. "In one toilet a policeman who tried to count the bodies couldn't tell if there was one or four. There was nothing left but teeth or pieces of bone."

Skoglund said the temperature in the midships cabins reached 300 degrees Celsius (572 Fahrenheit). "It destroyed everything," he said.

About 1,000 people attended a state memorial service in Oslo's main cathedral, including Prime Minister Jan P. Syse and members of the royal family.

Words of consolation stuck in the throat, said the Rev. Joergen Karlsen, who is in charge of a crisis support team for the survivors and families of victims. US ambassador Loret Miller Ruppe also attended. A US entertainer on the ship, Ruth E. Rome, was among the presumed dead.

Witnesses said one fire began some time after 2 am Saturday, but the fire alarm sounded only at 2.30. At least two fires started independently, investigators said, supporting the theory that an arsonist was to blame.

In Copenhagen, marine experts from the three Scandinavian countries gathered to discuss tightening safety regulations, especially on board foreign-registered vessels.



Mitsotakis talks to reporters

Socialist rule ends in Greece

ATHENS, April 11. (Agencies) Greece's first conservative government since 1981 took office today after winning elections on pledges to roll back eight years of Socialist rule.

Constantine Mitsotakis, 71, leader of the conservative New Democracy Party, was sworn in as prime minister by President Christos Sartzetakis at the presidential palace in central Athens.

The 39-member cabinet, all from the New Democracy Party, was then sworn in and the government immediately met to begin charting its new course for Greece.

Mitsotakis won 150 seats in the 300-strong Parliament in last Sunday's elections. He then secured the backing of a centrist deputy, giving him a paper-thin 151 majority and a base to start carrying out his ambitious economic programmes.

It is Greece's first single-party government since the Socialist Pasok Party lost power last June in a crushing election defeat after being dragged down by financial and political scandals.

Since June Greece has been ruled by two weak coalition governments, and decisions on all major policy, domestic and foreign, have been frozen.

Antonis Samaras, Harvard-educated and a rising star in the New Democracy Party, was named foreign minister. He held the post in an all-party government formed last November and was finance minister in a coalition government after the June election.

George Souflias was named national economy minister, a job he held after the June vote, and will be in charge of sweeping reforms to deal with a severe economic crisis.

The economy has been staggering under heavy debts and the highest inflation, 16.5 per cent annually, in the European Community. The EEC has told Greece "drastic and immediate" economic measures were needed.

Guard held hostage

Wave of violence in UK prisons

GLASGOW, Scotland, April 11. (Agencies) Forty inmates at maximum security Shotts prison attacked guards and took one hostage last night, the Scottish office reported.

Shotts, near the southwest Scottish port city of Glasgow, is the 12th British correctional institution to be hit by violence since the start of this month.

The Scottish office, responsible for Scottish prisons, said in a statement that two guards were injured at Shotts prison.

It said a group of inmates continued to hold 30-year-old prison guard Jim Rankin hostage this morning. It said he appeared to be unharmed.

Scores of police arrived at the prison as authorities began negotiations to try to secure his release.

The Scottish office said the 40 inmates involved barricaded themselves on the second floor of B hall at the prison.

The prison was built three years ago. It houses 434 prisoners.

The current wave of violence in British prisons began on April 1 when inmates rioted at Strangeways prison in the northern English city of Manchester.

Authorities there said less than 20 prisoners on Wednesday were still on the loose inside the prison, refusing to surrender. One prisoner at Strangeways awaiting trial on charges of indecently assaulting three children died from injuries he received at the hands of other inmates. Relatives of inmates in the 122-year-old prison complained of overcrowding, insanitary conditions and prisoners kept locked in their cells for up to 23 hours a day.

Rioting subsequently erupted at Dartmoor prison in southwest England, and prisons at Bristol in western England, Cardiff in Wales, Hull in northeast England, Leeds in northern England and London's Pentonville and Brixton prisons.

Rioting also erupted at three young offenders institutions. Two more inmates surrendered yesterday at Strangeways prison which has sparked trouble at other prisons across the country.

Before the pair gave themselves up, two warders were injured when prisoners hurled slates from the roof.

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Walesa backs away

Presidential declaration

WARSAW, April 11. (AP) Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told reporters today that he was misunderstood when he said he will run for president, and he meant only that reforms in Poland should be speeded up.

Walesa said his "metaphor" to the Polish news agency Pap yesterday was a warning to the present government to work faster in transforming Poland from a communist to a democratic system.

"I confirm," Pap quoted Walesa as saying yesterday when asked if he would run for president in the next elections. "We have many wise and valuable people in government, holding various posts. However, one must speed up the pace of reforms and destroy the old arrangements."

Despite his statement today, politicians in Poland showed they believe Walesa will run for president, with the only question being when the voting will take place.

President Wojciech Jaruzelski's term is not due to end

until 1995, but there is a strong possibility that voting will be moved up as part of a general overhaul of the Polish constitution.

Walesa said his remarks would bring a political backlash. He then stressed that his "signal" meant simply that "there is a need to speed up reforms, and not the taking of any office."

The slogan in which I say that Lech Walesa is ready to run for president means that he wants to speed up reforms, so that the reforms are quicker and better, not that Lech Walesa wants to take the post of president," he said.

"My metaphor was not fully understood. It says that more has to be done in the direction of reforms."

Walesa typically is circumspect in discussing his political moves and often makes seemingly contradictory statements.

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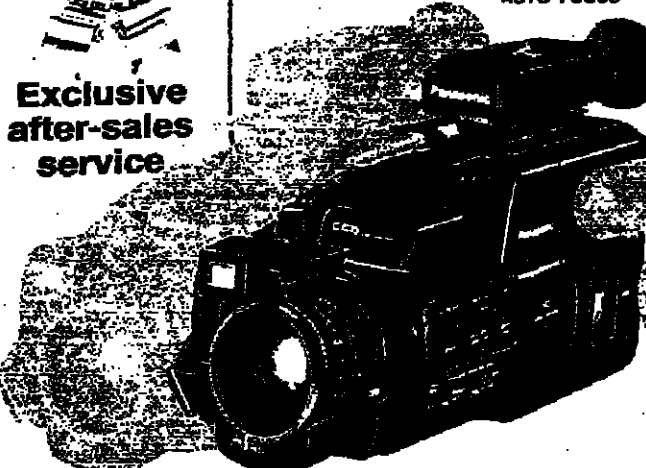
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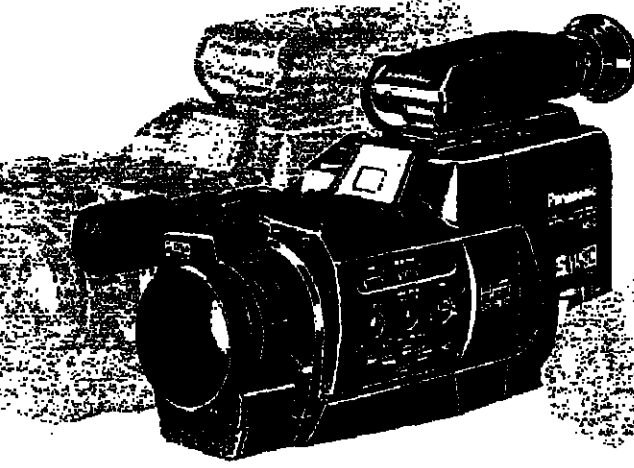
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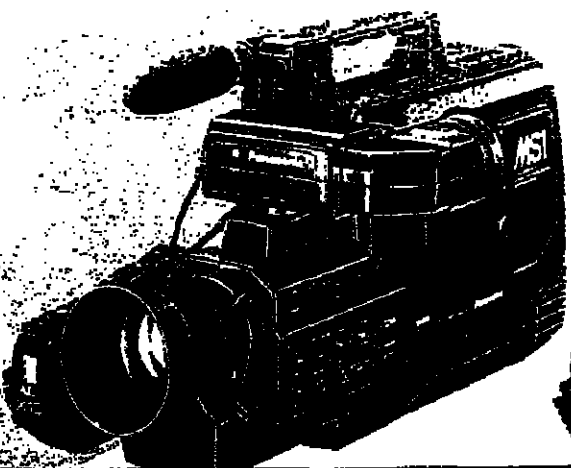
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Coalition talks in final round

EAST BERLIN, April 11. (UPI) — Weary negotiators worked against the clock to finalise arrangements for establishing an East German grand coalition government before the second session of parliament tomorrow.

"We are under time pressure because there is still a great deal to be decided," an exhausted Richard Schroeder, the Social Democratic Party's parliamentary floor leader, said yesterday.

Negotiators for the Social Democrats, three conservative parties and a three-party Liberal Alliance had agreed Monday on the general principles of a broad-based coalition government that will work out a formula to unify the country with West Germany.

Speaking during a pause in the coalition talks Tuesday evening, Schroeder said the negotiators had not discussed all policy reports prepared earlier by working groups.

"We enter this session tired but we hope the talking will not last too long now," he said.

When reporters suggested there seemed to be frequent disagreements among Social Democrats, Schroeder said, "We in the SPD have rid ourselves of the Fuehrer principle. Our faction does not lack in inner-party democracy."

"The party's parliamentary faction decides if we enter into a coalition. While it is possible that the faction could reject the coalition agreement, in my opinion, this is most unlikely," he said.

Under the agreement reached Monday, prime minister-designate Lothar de Maiziere's Christian Democratic Union will hold 11 ministerial posts, the Social Democrats seven, the Liberals three, the German Social Union two and the Democratic Awakening Party One.

De Maiziere said he was still seeking a consensus on several issues, but that the negotiators made "a good bit of headway" in the seventh session of the marathon negotiations.

The Christian Democrat leader said he was determined to present the cabinet list to parliament for approval at the legislature's next meeting tomorrow.

Hans-Wilhelm Ebeling of the German Social Union, the designated minister for economic co-operation, said that the negotiators had another night or two of work ahead before the list was complete.

Christian Democrat politician Gerhard Pohl appeared likely to be awarded the key post of economic ministry which will oversee merging a centralised system of state-owned firms with West Germany's free market.

Pohl will also be a key player in negotiations with West Germany over replacing East Germany's nearly worthless currency with the powerful Deutsche mark.

Apparent differences emerged yesterday between Pohl and an important ally among the West German Christian Democrats, Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Weeks ago Kohl suggested East German savers be given a 1-to-1 exchange rate for up to 2,000 East German marks.

But Pohl told the Cologne "Express" newspaper to 1-to-1 swap should be allowed for up to 30,000 marks per person.

A united Germany could belong to both Nato and the Warsaw Pact which should establish permanent ties, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze wrote in an article made public on Wednesday.

Moscow has previously ruled out Nato demands that a single Germany should be a full member of the Western alliance, and Shevardnadze's comments appear to mark a significant compromise on its previous insistence that Germany should be neutral.

Yugoslavia: The regional premier and six ethnic Albanian ministers have resigned in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province, the newspaper Borba said on Wednesday.

Their resignations followed a crackdown by the republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part, after the latest unrest in the ethnically-divided province and a Serbian takeover of its police.

They also followed reported disagreements with Kosovo's Communist Party, which is sympathetic to Serbia, over the handling of the unrest in which more than 50 have been killed since March last year.

Kosovo officials declined to comment on Borba's report.

Hungary: Official final results of the first free elections ending more than four decades of communist rule will be announced at a later date because of irregularities in several electoral districts, a Hungarian official said Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Woman marries dead fiancé: A woman whose fiancé died nearly a year ago married him anyway last weekend in a ceremony that made her a wedded woman for 24 hours, town officials said Tuesday in Criquebeuf, France.

Anne-Marie Bernicot was married Saturday to Pierre-Jean Camon, for reasons she did not reveal. She was declared a widow on Sunday. (AP)

Battle of Britain anniversary: The aircraft that fought in the Battle of Britain are ready again, with the crackle of gunfire and the voice of wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill on recordings to remember it all 50 years ago.

"We had to fight the Germans and that was it. We were all young and we had no idea that we were making history," said one-time Spitfire pilot Desmond Sheen at a preview on Tuesday of the largest exhibition of the anniversary year. (AP)

UK journalist fined: A British trainee journalist was fined 5,000 pounds (\$8,200) for contempt to court on Tuesday after refusing to disclose the source of information he used in a report which was never published.

The high court also ordered 24-year-old William Goodwin to pay costs estimated at 100,000 pounds (\$164,000) in a case which caused concern to newspaper editors and the national union of journalists. (Reuters)

Kohl advised to lose weight: West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, already tackling the weighty problem of German unification, has one closer to home — he's too fat.

So says the head of the German Society for Nutrition (DEG) who advised the West German leader to lose about 30 kg (66 pounds). (Reuters)

Train robbers steal \$3m: Train robbers shot and killed a postal worker and stole \$3 million in Austrian currency from a mail car in what police said Tuesday was the biggest heist in the history of Austria's postal service.

The dramatic robbery late Monday on a regional train near Vienna prompted postal authorities to post a \$25,600 reward for the thieves. (UPI)

Bond star wins libel suit: Timothy Dalton, star of the latest James Bond films, accepted libel damages at a London court on Tuesday from the publishers of a North American movie magazine which suggested he was to be replaced in the role.

Dalton's lawyer, Philip Coway, said the reports in Globe magazine that the actor could be dropped to save future James Bond films from financial disaster were untrue and had distressed and embarrassed him. (Reuters)

Madrid "dirty" strike drags on: Barmen at Madrid's Barajas airport wore surgical masks on Tuesday to keep out dirt piling up from a strike by cleaning staff now in its eighth day.

Stacks of newspapers, paper cups and other debris forced the airport's six restaurants to close at midnight on Monday and some planes were diverted to other cities for cleaning. (Reuters)

Train derailed, 2 dead: A city train derailed in southern Sweden on Tuesday, killing at least two people and injuring at least 30, the national news agency TT reported.

All five cars and the engine went off the tracks outside Skoldinge, 60 miles (100 kilometres) southwest of Stockholm. TT said. (AP)

Romanian sues president, leaders: A lone Romanian is making legal history by taking the country's leaders to court.

Octavian Radulescu, an anti-communist independent on the fringes of the country's fledgling democracy, has filed two separate cases against present or former members of the interim government in power since last December's revolution. (Reuters)

German spy couple arrested: The West German authorities Monday arrested a couple who for 24 years had been leaking top-secret information to East German intelligence services, the West German Bild Daily said Tuesday.

The mass circulation daily said the West German couple, it named only as Joachim-Paul P. (45) and his wife Gisela (42), were charged with treason. (UPI)

Heiress opens priceless art exhibit: American Barbara Haskins-Johnson, who left Poland to seek her fortune and returned as its multi-millionaire benefactor, opened an exhibit of extraordinary art from her private collection Tuesday at Warsaw's Royal Palace.

The show of priceless paintings, sculpture and other objects displayed in richly appointed galleries is the latest phase in Mrs. Johnson's complex relationship with her former countrymen, who have received her both as a saviour and with scepticism. (AP)

Court rejects Touvier bid: An appeals court Tuesday rejected an application by Paul Touvier to be released pending his trial on charges of committing crimes against humanity while head of a pro-Nazi militia during World War II.

Touvier, 74, has been jailed since May 1989. Prior to his arrest at a priory in Nice, he had been in hiding for 16 years. (AP)

Italian speaker's birthday celebrated: The Italian Parliament and leftist circles in the country Tuesday celebrated the 70th birthday of the Italian Parliament speaker Linda Yu.

Asia

Japan may lift China sanctions: The Japanese government said Wednesday it might lift economic sanctions against China, imposed last June following the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Prime Minister, Toshiki Kaifu told the Diet (Parliament) that he was hopeful circumstances would change to continue humanitarian assistance to China. (Kuna)

China, Japan talks: Japanese and Chinese foreign affairs officials met Wednesday for annual consultations on foreign and bilateral affairs, the Japanese embassy said.

An embassy official said the two-day meeting would address both diplomatic and economic matters. (AP)



Wedding kiss

Animal trainer Kim Jun-se receives a kiss from chimpanzee Kapsak during his wedding ceremony held in a wildlife park in Suwon, south of Seoul on Tuesday. Bride Yoo Dok-hee, also an animal trainer, looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Grant passports

Maude defends UK plea for HK

HONG KONG, April 11. (Reuters) — A British government minister today defended his statement that Britain had asked other countries to grant passports to Hong Kong people, even though diplomats from nations involved saying they know nothing of the scheme.

Francis Maude, the Foreign Office minister responsible for Hong Kong, told a packed news conference he stood by his announcement yesterday that 20 countries had responded positively to Britain's request for help in granting passports to Hong Kong people facing a return to Chinese rule in 1997.

Hong Kong-based diplomats from some countries named in his statement, notably West Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg, said they knew of no such scheme.

Maude said: "The fact is, of course, that policies are not made in consults-general, but in national capitals, and there has been a process of discussion with our partners and allies going back to January and before."

"Clearly we don't go around making announcements of this sort without being clear that they reflect the wishes of the governments they refer to. 'Everything in my statement yesterday stands firm,' Maude added.

Maude said yesterday that France had offered 1,500 passports to Hong Kong people employed by French companies and 19 other countries had responded positively.

China to send students overseas: China will send 3,000 students abroad this year, the same number as in previous years, but most will be older students on short-term programmes, an official report said Wednesday.

China has stressed that it will continue to send students overseas but in the past six months has placed new restrictions on studying abroad. (AP)

France rebuffs China protests: France has rebuffed fresh protests from Beijing over its sheltering of Chinese dissidents, a French official said on Tuesday.

A Chinese diplomat made the formal protest to the French Foreign Ministry on Monday, the official said. (Reuters)

Chai requests asylum in France: Chinese democracy movement dissident Chai Ling asked for political asylum from France Monday, exiled Chinese opposition sources said.

Chai arrived in France last week with her husband Feng Congde after escaping from her homeland. (UPI)

Pyeongyang warns Moscow: North Korea's official news agency on Tuesday carried a blunt warning to the Soviet Union not to establish ties with its South Korean arch-enemy.

It issued a statement by the pro-Pyeongyang South Korean National Democratic Front (Hamminjon) saying: "The Soviet Union, a friend of our people, must not go the length of becoming a friend of the enemy of our people." (Reuters)

Fair bombed, 11 killed: A bomb hurled at a fair killed 18 people, including four children, and wounded more than 40 people, a doctor said Wednesday in Bangkok.

Dr Chatchai Nualla-or, director of Buntahrik Hospital said an M-26 bomb was thrown Tuesday night at the fair attended by hundreds of villagers watching an open-air movie in Buntahrik district of Ubon Ratchathani, 335 miles (535 km) east of Bangkok. (UPI)

Quake shakes Japan: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.5 on the Richter scale struck Kushiro and its neighbouring areas on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido Wednesday, but police said there were no reports of injuries or damage.

The capital meteorological agency said the quake occurred at 4:53 pm (0753 GMT), roughly 70 kilometres (42 miles) undersea off the city of Kushiro, which is 900 kilometres (540 miles) north of Tokyo. (AP)

Lithuania accused of endangering peace

Soviet radicals demand party split

MOSCOW, April 11. (Reuters) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev accused Lithuania of endangering world peace with its rebellion against Moscow and said he could use his new executive powers to bring the separatist republic to heel.

The Soviet Communist Party central committee meanwhile appeared ready to crack down on radicals agitating for drastic reform in a statement that said they had no place in the party.

Gorbachev, meeting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd yesterday, denounced the Lithuanian Parliament which declared the republic's independence from Moscow on March 11.

"The adventurist actions of the present leadership can cost dearly to the Lithuanian people themselves, the Soviet Union and world peace as well," he said according to Tass news agency.

Spokesman for Hurd said he urged the Kremlin to open talks with Lithuania, saying he believed the republic's people had clearly expressed their wish for self-determination.

But Gorbachev told Hurd the Lithuanians should play by Soviet rules if they wanted to secede. He said the republic should rescind its declaration of independence and then call a referendum, as provided by a new Soviet law passed last week.

A leader of a powerful bloc of Soviet communist radicals, under siege by party conservatives, demanded today an immediate split in the ranks and the formation of a new Social Democratic Party.

Reformist Ilya Chubais said attacks on the reformist democratic platform movement represented a coup by leading conservative Yegor Ligachev and his allies and the start of a witch hunt.

"We call on all communists to leave the party, to stop paying dues and join the new Party of the Democratic Platform," Chubais, a member of the group's co-ordinating, said in an interview.

Chubais's comments were in response to the "open letter" from the policy-making central committee, which blasted the Democratic Platform and awakened fears of a purge.

"We have concluded that what has taken place in a Ligachev-conservative coup of the party leadership," said Chubais.

Soviet television's main nightly new bulletin yesterday broadcast the text of the open letter.

"The time has come to decide what to do about those who put themselves outside the party. How can they stay in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union?" it said.

The letter indicated that the next party congress — scheduled to open on July 3 after being brought forward twice — would be a battlefield between the left and right wings.

A democratic platform congress is set for late May but Chubais said the attacks by the central committee might force the group to act more quickly.

Platform leaders put its numbers at well over 100,000, including many of the most prominent Soviet reformers, and chapters are active in 100 Soviet cities.

Earlier yesterday Gorbachev said he might use his power of direct presidential rule in Lithuania if a civilian conflict broke out there.

He did not rule out the possibility of introducing presidential rule but only as an extreme measure, if the situation there develops into a civil conflict.

Tass quoted him as saying in a speech to the Komsomol, the communist youth organisation.

Under constitutional amendments passed by Parliament last month which created Gorbachev's presidential position, the Soviet leader has a right to directly rule an area "in the interests of citizens' security." But the power is not clearly defined.

The Soviet President did not describe what he meant by civil conflict in Lithuania. But Soviet media provide daily reports of tension there, and Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis has said Moscow could easily create a pretext for trouble.

Gorbachev's statement came one day after a dark warning by the presidential council, an advisory body, that additional economic and political and unnamed "other" measures would be taken in Lithuania to hold the Soviet Union together.

Landsbergis responded yesterday with a telegram asking Gorbachev not to allow "ultra-rightist imperial forces" to force his hand in Lithuania.

Lithuania, along with the Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia, were incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 after the Red Army moved in.

The Communist Party central committee sharply attacked the "democratic platform" group of radicals which has urged changing the party into a socialist parliamentary grouping.



Gorbachev raises his finger as he tells a conference of the Young Communist League (Komsomol) in Moscow on Tuesday that he does not rule out the possibility of direct presidential rule to solve the Lithuanian crisis. (Reuters wirephoto)

Exiled king told to postpone trip

Romania fears protests

BUCHAREST, April 11. (AP) — Several political parties established in the wake of the December revolution that toppled communist rule called on exiled King Michael of Romania to postpone his visit to this country, the state Rompres news agency reported yesterday.

Michael was scheduled to arrive in Romania on April 12 for a Soviet-installed government forced him to abdicate 42 years ago.

Prince Margareta, his eldest daughter, had no further comment from Geneva on press reports that several political parties had appealed to Michael to postpone the trip until after the May 20 elections.

"The National and Democratic Reconstruction Party ... considers the monarch's visit as inappropriate because it creates grave perturbations that might affect the democratic running of the electoral campaign," Rompres quoted a communiqué of the party as saying.

The little-known NDR party headquartered in Baia Mare, northwestern Romania, called on the ruling council of National Union to postpone the visit, "private as it may be," until after the May 20 elections.

The party said that thousands of its members, including miners and forestry workers from the area, were ready to board trains for Bucharest to protest Michael's planned trip.

Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, one of the main contenders in elections, and a candidate for Romania's presidency, told a mass rally that Michael was ill advised to come before elections, "thinking he is wanted."

An official announcement last week said the exiled king "will come as a citizen of Romania who was born in this country" and that "he will not have any political contacts during his stay."

Michael, who will be accompanied by his wife, Queen Anne, and three of his daughters, would spend most of his time touring the country, rather than staying in Bucharest, sources in his entourage said. The exiled king lives at Versoix, near Geneva.

Volunteer army

Soviet plan

MOSCOW, April 11. (Reuters) — Soviet politicians, defying the powerful military establishment, have drawn up plans to turn the huge, largely conscript armed forces into a slimmer volunteer force within five years.

Vladimir Lopatin, chairman of a parliamentary commission drafting the plans, said in an interview published yesterday. They included formation of local units drawn from individual republics. In the past the military, fearing nationalism, has insisted units draw soldiers from throughout the union. The armed forces are currently in some disarray, battered by Gorbachev's troop cuts and uneasy at their role in policing nationalist unrest. The high command has been overhauled in recent years and morale in the officer corps has sagged as the army prepares to yield bases in Eastern Europe.

"Military reform is overdue," Lopatin told the government daily Izvestia. "And (that must be) radical reform, not cosmetic. That is obvious to many people these days."

"The main idea of the reform is a stage-by-stage change to a professional armed force, smaller in numbers, but better in quality," Lopatin said.

The two-year obligatory military service done by all Soviet young men has become a major cause of resentment, especially between the Kremlin and separatists in the Baltic Republics.

Bush's twin-edged message to Gorby

WASHINGTON, April 11. (Agencies) — President George Bush is producing Mikhail S. Gorbachev to show the same restraint in Lithuania as he did in Eastern Europe, praising the Soviet leader as an apostle of "peaceful change and the evolution of democracy."

Bush said yesterday that Gorbachev's tolerance of democratic freedoms in Warsaw Pact nations had demonstrated "a commitment to reform and openness that is remarkable."

"So give him credit and deal openly with him on problems such as Lithuania," the President said. "But when you have difficulties like we have today, talk frankly with him about it."

Wednesday, Bush planned to talk about Lithuania with a group of leaders of Baltic-American groups.

Bush's twin-edged message of praise and restraint appeared intended to put pressure on Gorbachev not to use force or additional intimidation against Lithuania to abandon its declaration of independence.

Bush, on a visit to Toronto, said no one could have predicted Gorbachev's willingness to accept changes in Eastern Europe.

"In other words, he has demonstrated that he is committed to peaceful change and the evolution of democracy," he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who was Bush's host, went beyond the President in extolling Gorbachev.

Mulroney said Gorbachev, in contrast to other Soviet leaders, "is much more attractive and more realistic and more — appears to be much more in keeping with some, if not all, of the values that we in the West defend."

Topics

Mulroney was the first of three Western leaders holding talks with Bush over a 10-day period. Bush will see British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Bermuda on Friday and confer with French President Francois Mitterrand in Key Largo, Florida, on April 19.

The chief topics of Bush's talks with Mulroney were the tensions in Lithuania and the President's five-day summit with Gorbachev beginning May 30.

Bush said that if the situation in Lithuania deteriorates, "it would be extraordinary difficult to move forward as rapidly as I'd like to see us move forward with them on a lot of questions."

He said the presence of Soviet tanks in Lithuania make it "even more important to have good-faith negotiations" over the fate of the republic.

Bush said the setting of summit dates did not tie his hands in trying to influence the Soviet attitude toward the Baltic republics.

"I happen to believe when you have complications that that's a good time to talk," Bush said.

As for his summit with Gorbachev, the President said "there's an awful lot to be done" if the two sides hope to sign an agreement to cut their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

He said the summit, itself, would serve as a catalyst to push the negotiations along.

US and Soviet negotiators met yesterday in Geneva to prepare an agreement on destroying chemical weapons to be signed when the US and Soviet presidents meet at the end of May.

Following a decision taken by US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last February, the two sides hope to draft an agreement to reduce their chemical weapons stocks to 5,000 tonnes each.

"We hope that by the end of this round there will be no problems," chief US negotiator Stephen Ledogar said, adding that if disagreements did remain Baker and Shevardnadze could deal with them in talks in Moscow in mid-May.

The talks are likely to last about two and a half weeks.

President George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev hope to remove remaining obstacles to a strategic arms reduction talks (Start) treaty at their May 30-June 3 meeting and sign agreements on limiting nuclear tests in addition of the poison gas accord.

The superpowers hold more chemical weapons than any other nation. Ledogar said he hoped destroying most of their poison gas would speed protracted UN-sponsored talks on banning all chemical weapons world-wide.

The ambassadors, shortly before starting discussions, said the two most important areas of disagreement were on when production should stop and destruction begin.

No discussions of armed struggle at May talks with De Klerk: Mandela

LUSAKA, April 11. (Reuters) — Nelson Mandela said yesterday the African National Congress (ANC) would not discuss the armed struggle with the South African government before all obstacles to negotiations on ending apartheid were removed.

South African President F.W. de Klerk has said he would raise the issue with the ANC, the main guerrilla group fighting to end apartheid, at exploratory talks scheduled for May 2-4.

"It is premature for anybody to expect that the ANC is going to review its strategy before the government removes all obstacles to negotiations," said Mandela, the deputy ANC president.

"That strategy is intended precisely to remove all obstacles to negotiations and to ensure that every South African will be entitled to determine his own future. As long as that has not been reached, all the strategies of the ANC will be retained," he added.

Mandela, who arrived in Lusaka on Sunday, was speaking at a news conference at the end of two days of talks with exiled members of the policy-making ANC national executive committee.

The ANC has engaged in only low-level guerrilla warfare in recent years, but has vowed to continue this campaign while talking to the Pretoria government until its conditions for substantive negotiations are met.

The guerrilla group wants the South African government to end the state of emergency, remove troops from black townships, repeal repressive laws, stop prosecuting political offenders and release all political prisoners before full-scale negotiations.

Mandela said his meeting last Thursday with De Klerk had raised hopes that future talks would produce good results.

Next month's meeting was originally scheduled for April 11, but was postponed by the ANC in protest against the shooting of at least 17 blacks in Sebokeng black township near Johannesburg.

The ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) said in a statement it had discussed last week's meeting between Mandela and De Klerk.

ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo announced the composition of the team following a special session of the ANC's national executive committee in Lusaka.

De Klerk's all white negotiating team will face a multi-racial ANC delegation composed of seven blacks, two whites, including SACP secretary-general Joe Slovo and Johannesburg-based church leader Beyers Naude, Ahmed Kathrada of Indian descent, and Cheryl Carolus, a mixed-race or "coloured" ANC leader from the Cape province.

500 died of starvation in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, April 11, (AP): As many as 500 people died of starvation in Afghanistan's famine-ravaged northwestern provinces last month, Western diplomats said yesterday.

Humanitarian aid workers, headquartered in Pakistan's border city of Peshawar, began issuing famine warnings late last year. Several relief workers predicted widespread deaths this spring if food and desperately-needed pesticides didn't reach the worst hit areas of Herat, Badkhis and Faryab provinces.

Weather, war and ravenous locusts and pests have combined to cause the famine, said several aid workers.

"Refugee sources report that as many as 500 people may have died of hunger in Faryab province and that hundreds of families have fled the province because of food shortages," said a Western diplomat, who asked not to be identified further.

About 600 families reportedly fled the northern province, he said.

About 3.1-2 million refugees have

escaped to Pakistan since 1979 when the Soviet Red Army intervened in Afghanistan to replace one communist government with another and put down a burgeoning Muslim insurgency.

Two million other refugees have fled to Iran and most aid workers expect the majority of people leaving Afghanistan in search of food will travel to Iran which is closer than Pakistan.

Moscow withdrew its troops in 1988 but continues to send massive shipments of arms and humanitarian aid valued at

about \$1 billion a year.

The United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states support the Muslim insurgency, headquartered in Pakistan.

Tom Morrison, director of a Swedish-based agricultural research firm, warned that the locust and pest infestation "is very, very severe indeed."

"It is so serious that I think the only way to cure it is for everyone to leave and starve it out," he said.

Kabul's ruling communists reportedly

have 8,000 tonnes of the much-needed pesticide, but have released only 300 tonnes.

A Soviet soldier held captive by Afghan rebels for nearly four years has been handed over to Soviet diplomats after Afghan government troops set him free.

The official Afghan Bakhtar news agency reported today that Alexy Rotov, a Soviet soldier, was handed to the Soviet embassy in Kabul yesterday.

Bashir's major cabinet shuffle

Islamic politicians promoted

CAIRO, April 11, (Reuters): Sudanese military ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir reshuffled his government yesterday for the first time since he seized power in June, giving two ministerial posts to Muslim fundamentalist politicians.

Bashir, head of state, prime minister and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, topped the elected government of Sadeq Al-Mahdi in a coup last June, returning impoverished Sudan to military rule for the fourth time since independence in 1956.

An obscure army brigadier until June, Bashir placed Sudan under a state of emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved Parliament, political parties and trade unions. He also suppressed the press and detained scores of politicians, trade unionists and human rights activists.

His powerful 15-man ruling Junta, widely suspected of subscribing to a militant Islamic ideology and increasingly adopting anti-Western rhetoric, has left civilian cabinet ministers little authority, a fact that Khar-toum-based diplomats say has repeatedly caused friction.

The governors of the important central and Kordofan regions were also replaced by two Junta members, Colonels Suliman Moham-med Suliman and Faisal Madani Mukhtar, respectively.

Bashir named Hussein Abu

Salah, a leading member of the banned Democratic Unionist Party, as housing minister and gave the education brief to Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed, a member of Mahdi's Umma Party.

Both Abu Salah and Ahmed served as cabinet ministers during the three years of Mahdi's rule. They are known to be sympathetic to the militant National Islamic Front, which has for years campaigned for the strict implementation of Islamic sharia laws.

Abu Salah has since the overthrow of Jaafar Nimeiri in 1985 served as minister of health, education and foreign affairs, while Ahmed held the information and trade jobs under Mahdi.

Bashir named Mohammed Khogli Salhin, a former information minister and until yesterday's reshuffle the head of the state news agency, to replace Ali Shomou as information minister.

Bashir also dismissed Finance Minister Sayed Ali Zaki, naming Abdul-Rahim Hamdi as his replacement.

Zaki was involved in a publicised row with a Junta member in charge of the economy, Navy Colonel Salah El-Din Karar, over foreign-currency regulations implemented by the military on importers. He argued that the stringent rules were responsible for the acute shortages of consumer goods.

Parliamentary democracy

No turning back, vows Hussein

AMMAN, April 11, (Agencies): King Hussein has vowed "there will be no turning back" from parliamentary democracy and entrusted a committee with drafting guidelines for legalising political parties outlawed 33 years ago.

Hussein convened the 60-member national charter drafting committee yesterday and made an impassioned, televised plea for a pact assuring tolerance of conflicting viewpoints.

"The new phase which we are about to begin will pave the way for the resumption of political pluralism, which is another cornerstone of democracy," the King said.

"The constitutional parliamentary life is our common choice, and the path from which there will be no turning back," Hussein vowed in a speech to the country's 3.1 million people.

The commission, named on Monday, is chaired by former prime minister Ahmed Obeidat and includes prominent Jordanians from across the political and social spectrum.

Four members are women. At least 17 members are of Palestinian origin. Eleven belong to the senate and 16 to the lower house of parliament. Ten members are Islamic fundamentalists, including six Muslim Brotherhood members.

Lawyers, academics, writers and trade unionists are among those chosen to represent the views of communists, Baathists, conservative tribesmen, Muslim fundamentalists and liberals.

They have the task of drafting a charter to guide Jordan's return to political pluralism 33 years after tensions between palace and leftist politicians led to a ban on parties.

Hussein last November over-

saw Jordan's first national election since 1967, one of the freest ever held in the Arab world.

He said the charter would form "a broad and flexible framework for national action" and would be a "regulator of the state's various activities in politics, economy, security, social affairs and culture."

The 54-year-old monarch warned that without goodwill and agreement on basic concepts, "democracy turns into anarchy" and develops "fangs and talons that tear at the fabric of national unity and destroy the achievements and gains of the state."

Hussein said his July 1988 decision to renounce claims to the Israeli-occupied West Bank in favour of the Palestine Liberation Organisation led to last November's parliamentary election.

The West Bank held half the seats in Jordan's old parliament. It is not represented in the new body.

The King said four days of widespread rioting over economic problems and government policies last April led him to seek the national charter.

He said those riots showed that elections alone "would be an insufficient remedy" because Jordanians held "varying convictions on some of the fundamental tenets and precepts upon which the kingdom is founded."

The King banned parties in 1957, three years after he assumed the throne, after an unsuccessful leftist coup attempt.

A non-party parliament continued intermittently until 1974. After a 10-year hiatus, it was revived in 1984 despite the lack of

elections since 1967.

"Anyone who thinks that I was comfortable with the situation which prevailed in the absence of an elected parliament, or that I was happy bearing most of the burden (of government), is mistaken," he said.

Hussein said the parties of the 1950s, when Pan-Arab forces tried to spread their influence across national borders, "were governed by the positions and dictates of their leaders from abroad."

"The leaders of those parties overlooked the most important principle of democracy, namely that nobody has a monopoly of truth."

He also accused them of seeking "power at the expense of democracy and the interest of the citizens" and of violating "another tenet of political pluralism, which is to refrain from violence."

Hussein urged Jordanians to avoid what he said were violations of basic democratic values by "Western societies and Israel."

"The nations that colonised most of the people of Asia and Africa for hundreds of years have the oldest democratic traditions, and the country (Israel) that occupies Palestine suppressing and terrorising its people also has a democratic system," he noted.

"This should remind us that democracy also has an ugly face which manifests itself when the people who practice democracy stray from ethical values in their dealings with other nations or when they pursue their narrow interest over the general good of society and the state."

The King repeated that "Jordan's commitment to help the Palestinian people and their just cause is a historic and fateful part of its national commitment."



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (left) greets US Senator Robert Dole upon his arrival at the presidential palace in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

No cut in US aid to Mideast, says Dole

CAIRO, April 11, (UPI): US Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, currently in Cairo as part of a regional tour, said yesterday he did not anticipate any immediate cut backs in US aid to Egypt and Israel as part of a process of redistributing American aid dollars to emerging democracies in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Dole, who is heading a five-member senate delegation, was reported as having said before arriving in Egypt that he would like to see a five per cent cut in US aid to Egypt and Israel, and the funds diverted to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

"We are confident that we want Egypt to remain strong, and on that standpoint my suggestion was more or less to give the President of the United States some flexibility and underscore that the US has a debt of over \$3 trillion and interest payments of \$180 billion a year, and that we need to examine our programs," Dole told reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"But obviously, Egypt is in a unique position because of the strong friendship and their unique position in the world. I wouldn't anticipate cut backs, but we need to re-examine aid," he said.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Esam-Abdel Meguid, asked if he thought developments in Eastern Europe and Latin America could affect aid to Cairo, said he didn't think it would have an impact.

"Our relations with the United States are strong, and its assistance to Eastern Europe doesn't mean it will be at the expense of other countries," Meguid said.

US officials said some \$5 billion in US aid commitments went to Israel and Egypt last year, with just over \$2 billion going to Egypt. Of US aid to Egypt, some \$170 million was in the form of food aid, mostly US wheat, \$815 million was economic aid and \$1.3 billion was military aid.

Meanwhile, Dole announced that he is to visit Iraq tomorrow to confer with President Saddam Hussein on pressing Mideast developments.

OBITUARY in memory of 40TH DAY



Vinod B. Shah
died in India on 4th March, 1990
Inserted by
sorrowing family.

INSERTED BY
SORROWING FAMILY.

UK press slams 'French deal'

Hostages return

PARIS, April 11, (UPI): Three European hostages freed in Beirut by the Abu Nidal extremist group arrived in Paris and spent the night resting in a hospital, ending a drama that began as a vacation cruise on the Mediterranean 2 1/2 years ago.

The hostages, Jacqueline Valente of France, 34, her Belgian boyfriend Fernand Houdekens, 42, and their 2-1/2-year-old daughter, Sophie, who was born in captivity, landed at a French military base outside Paris yesterday aboard a special plane sent to Beirut for them by the French government.

Looking tired, the three hostages were greeted by family members and dozens of reporters. They left the base for a military hospital in central Paris where they spent the night. They made no statements after their arrival.

The release came after the group run by Abu Nidal, negotiated with Belgian and French officials. It also came nearly a week after Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi called for the release of western hostages to mark the holy month of Ramadan.

President Francois Mitterrand thanked Khaddafi for his "determining role" in freeing the hostages, the Elysee Palace said. It was not certain why Khaddafi made the appeal. But in Paris, diplomatic sources agreed with reports indicating yesterday's release might be related to France's decision to return three Libyan Mirage jets in March.

Free all: Tehran Times

NICOSIA, April 11, (Agencies): The Tehran Times, welcoming the release yesterday of three hostages by the Libyan-backed Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), said today all hostages should be freed regardless of political considerations.

"In fact the issue of hostage-taking should come to an end for all with no discrimination," the English-language daily, which is believed to be close to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in an editorial.

"The Islamic Republic has time and again announced its outright opposition to hostage-taking as the country finds it contradictory with the Islamic teachings and regards it a serious violation of human relations," it said.

The Iranian news agency Irna, said the paper expressed the hope that yesterday's release would be a prelude to the freedom of all hostages regardless of their nationality, religion and belief.

The Tehran Times said: "There are still other hostages from various countries, including Iran, kept by political factions."

Seventeen Westerners are believed held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, four Belgians by the FRC and three Iranians and their Lebanese driver were kidnapped in Lebanon in the early stages of the civil war which started in 1975.

Brian Keenan, an Irishman who taught English at the American University of Beirut, marked his fourth year as a hostage today with no word on his whereabouts.

No group has claimed to hold the 39-year-old from Belfast, but he was seen snatched by gunmen as he walked to the AUB campus on April 11, 1986, shortly after he took up his teaching post in Beirut's Muslim sector.

The French had held the jets, in France for maintenance, since 1986 under a military embargo against Tripoli after Khaddafi's invasion of northern Chad in 1983. Khaddafi reportedly retaliated by closing Libyan ports to French ships.

In London, British newspapers, insisting that Mirage jets were exchanged for three European hostages, accused France of "nauseating" hypocrisy in its gratitude to Libya.

A French minister has denied Mirages were traded for Valente, her Belgian lover Houdekens and their two-year-old daughter, released in Lebanon yesterday.



A file photo of Abu Nidal



Walid Khalidi: spokesman

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Arafat call for Arab summit PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has called for a special Arab summit conference to discuss Middle East issues before the superpower summit at the end of May.

"I hope the proposal for a special Arab summit will be approved quickly and that it will be held before the American-Soviet summit at the end of next month," Arafat said after meeting Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali yesterday. (Reuters)

Execute economic saboteurs: Iran's hard-line parliamentary vice-speaker has demanded that economic saboteurs be executed, the Iranian news agency Irna said today.

Masoud Bahai, speaking two days after the Majlis (Parliament) was asked to prescribe punishment for those damaging Iran's war-battered economy, said their action was no different from attacks committed by group's subversive to the West and the East. (Reuters)

France reduces forces in Chad: France is reducing its military forces in eastern Chad just 10 days after they had been reinforced following combats between Chadian government troops and Libyan-backed rebels, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

France sent 15 combat aircraft to Abche in eastern Chad on March 30 and flew in an additional 146 paratroopers from France to the West African nation in what the French Defence Ministry described as an "implicit warning" to Libya not to challenge the government of President Hissene Habre. (UPI)

Addis Ababa denies cluster bomb raids: Ethiopia has dismissed as a "campaign of vilification" rebels' claims that air force warplanes used napalm and cluster bombs against civilians in recent raids.

The official Ethiopian news agency, in a lengthy commentary, said the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) charges were designed to mislead world public opinion and "to invite further foreign intervention" in the war for control of the northern province of Eritrea. (UPI)

Five Palestinians wounded: Israeli soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians in the occupied territories and arrested six to five Israeli vehicles

yesterday, first day of the week-long Passover holiday. Two Palestinians were shot in or near the West Bank city of Nablus, two were hit in Gaza City and one was wounded in a nearby refugee camp to the south, hospital and Palestinian sources said. (Reuters)

Egypt rounds up smuggling ring: Nine people involved in smuggling counterfeit \$100 bills into Egypt through Israel have been arrested in Cairo, police said yesterday.

They told Reuters that 1,000 forged \$100 notes were seized. The arrested gang members were Egyptians with the exception of a Jordanian student who was responsible for the counterfeit notes' distribution in Cairo. (Reuters)

Court upholds conviction: A court of appeals yesterday upheld a life sentence for a Palestinian convicted of attacks on Jewish and US interests in Copenhagen, Denmark, officials said.

Marten Imandi was one of four Palestinians convicted of bombing a synagogue and Northwest Orient Airlines office in 1985.

Imandi, who was sentenced to life last December, sought a lesser sentence, arguing that he played a minor role.

Son loses court battle

CAIRO, April 11, (Reuters): An Egyptian court yesterday rejected a demand by the son of a famous Egyptian spy to halt screening of a hugely popular television series because it portrays his father as a womaniser.

Judge Sayed Ghanim said the court rejected Erich Daniel Baiton's claim because there was insufficient evidence that he was the son of Ra'faat Al Gammal. Baiton believed he was the son of wealthy Israeli businessman Jack Baiton until 1986, when a largely biographical book about his father was published revealing he was actually an Egyptian Muslim who spied on the Jewish state for 30 years.

The book Ra'faat Al Haggan, by author Salah Mourji, was based on documents and input from Egypt's intelligence service.

The judge said in his ruling that the only document submitted to prove Baiton was the spy's son was a dedication to him from Mourji.

Geagea pledges to hand over territory to Hirawi

BEIRUT, April 11, (Reuters): Lebanese militia chief Samir Geagea said yesterday he would offer hand over the parts of the Christian enclave he controls to President Elias Hirawi's troops in a move bound to anger defiant General Michel Aoun.

But Geagea said Hirawi would have to agree to leave his 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces militia intact as a military force.

Geagea told Reuters it could take a few weeks to put West Beirut-based Hirawi in authority over the two-thirds of the enclave which his LF militia holds after two months of inter-Christian war with Aoun's troops.

"Militarily it (the transfer of power) will take a week, administratively it will take two weeks," said Geagea, speaking in a bomb shelter below the shell-wrecked LF headquarters in the Karantina neighbourhood of East Beirut.

"Negotiations with President Hirawi are bearing fruit," Geagea said. The Hirawi government on Monday appointed Brigadier Elie Hayek to command the take over of Lebanese army barracks in LF-held areas north of Beirut following Geagea's offer to hand them over last week.

Aoun warned on Saturday that he would not accept any alliance between the LF and Hirawi's 15,000 mainly Muslim troops, led by General Emile Lahoud.

The LF leader said Lahoud would have to agree that the LF could continue to exist as a separate military force.

The Arab League's supreme tripartite committee entrusted to find a peaceful solution for the Lebanese crisis had sought the Vatican's help to convince Aoun to recognise legitimacy of president Hirawi's government.

A report which is stamped as "absolutely confidential," a copy of which was made available to Kuna

said Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali had expressed conviction during a recent meeting with the Vatican foreign minister that the Holy See's role in restoring Lebanon's stability "is very significant."

Al Sayasah correspondent in Beirut Mohammed Anan adds: The Lebanese Parliament will debate a draft bill providing for the need for the president of the republic, the parliament speaker, the prime minister and cabinet ministers to announce their wealth and the wealth of their families when they take office and when they leave office like what is happening now in some countries, such as the United States and France.

KUWAIT ... GULF

State tender soon for afforestation project

Kisr researches hardier plants

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashid has said that the standard specifications for landscaping agriculture have been completed.

In an interview with a local daily, Rashed said that the terms of the afforestation project had been reviewed recently and had been revised commensurate with the requirements of the five year plan.

He added that the empowered committee has studied and evaluated the gardens and public squares greenery project and a comprehensive study is being prepared

related to Kuwait National Resort in a prelude to announce the pertinent tender. The official said that the five year plan has included preparations of the necessary requirements for palm agriculture along the highways in addition to the water supply project from Iraq to Kuwait.

Extension

He added that the Ministry of Public Works has been informed to prepare the relevant tender documents for Al Sour Garden in co-ordination with Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources.

Speaking of afforestation at Al-Safar Road Project, Rashed said that the project will be extended from Al Safar Road project conjunction at Sixth Ring Road up to Al-Riqqa.

He added that the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources is in compliance with high directives is co-ordinating with the Ministry of Planning for preparing the consulting agreement of this project in a prelude to a public tender.

Speaking of the applied research in the country, the minister said that Kuwait

Institute for Scientific Research had made a good progress in this area particularly through its contribution in landscaping the agriculture area. He added that the institute had conducted several successful researches over the capability of some plants to grow under Kuwait's climatic conditions.

He added that the institute paid special concern to research relating to pastures and greenery projects in addition to inserting new species of seeds which had been imported from well known scientific research centres.

Better land use will solve problems: Kisr

Housing woes

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times staff

IF the government continues to build housing projects at the present rate, an area equivalent to that of Kuwait city will be needed by the year 2000, according to a study by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

In a series of studies requested by the Supreme Housing Council, Kisr investigated new venues for providing efficient housing, making optimum use of the limited land allocated for housing and cutting applicants' waiting period which could reach 10 years.

"Our studies aimed at presenting policy-makers with facts to consider when making their decisions rather than studies about design and construction of such houses," said Dr Adnan Al Adeeb, head of Kisr's Building Department.

One option recommended by Kisr was higher density housing. "By density we mean the number of houses in a hectare of land. The authority is presently building 8-12 houses per hectare which is considered very low. We recommended building 15-20 houses per hectare to make better use of the available land," explained Adeeb.

Reservations

Kisr also recommended the development of more housing projects in and around Kuwait city rather than building satellite cities and projects in suburban areas. "We had our reservations about continuing suburban development. We feel that such projects will eventually empty the city of its indigenous people. It will become a commercial centre with only non-Kuwaiti



Dr Adnan Al Adeeb

residents," said Adeeb.

"We looked into the possibility of developing housing projects from the 6th Ring Road inwards. We used Landsat (satellite) maps of the city that show its empty pockets of land. If we use that land in building low-rise high-density houses, we can build 50,000 of them," explained Adeeb adding that a good design that incorporates social values will no doubt prove successful.

In order to shorten the waiting period for the 30,000 applicants, Kisr recommended more involvement of the private sector in all stages of housing projects. "We suggested establishing groups that include financing institutions, consultant engineering firms and contractors to carry out such projects," said Adeeb.

"In addition to reviving the economy, these private firms will be able to provide applicants with different design alternatives and they will not need to make major changes after the houses

are built."

Another study examined the site management system followed by the National Housing Authority and the reasons for delay in completing their projects, and recommended a number of management styles that make use of computer systems.

"We are also working on a number of new projects for the Supreme Housing Council. One is about building 'Core and Finish' houses instead of finished ones and leaving the finishing up to the applicant. Another is about establishing a GCC on-line housing information system that will avail to these countries all the experiences of the others in housing so that we do not repeat one another's mistakes," concluded Adeeb.

Drug busts

COLOMBO, April 11, (Kuna): Of the 48 Sri Lankans arrested in various countries for drug offences last year, two of them were taken into custody in Kuwait, according to statistics.

A total of 48 offenders were arrested in 11 countries, most of them for alleged smuggling of heroin, these statistics indicate.

However, the largest number of those taken into custody was from Italy where a gang of drug smugglers was rounded up by the Italian drugs law enforcement agencies.

Six foreigners were also arrested in Sri Lanka for committing drug offences.

Meanwhile, eight kilos of heroin were seized by the Sri Lankan authorities while being smuggled into Sri Lanka from India in mechanised boats.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received yesterday morning HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla received at his office at Bayan Palace Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Abdulla Al Othman who was accompanied by Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil and Assistant Justice Undersecretary Khaled Al Mudhaf on occasion of their appointment.

His Highness later chaired a meeting of the higher governorates council.

The council comprises the Interior Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of Planning, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, governors, chairman of governorates' councils and representatives of governorates on the higher governorates' council.

Sheikh Saad also resumed meetings with representatives of public welfare societies, co-operatives, professional associations and workers trade union.

His Highness will later confer with representatives of public shareholding companies, sports associations and clubs.

Czech envoy

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah received at his office yesterday morning the Czechoslovakian ambassador to Kuwait Tomas Strakos.

During the meeting they exchanged friendly talks.

More Kuwaitis

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): Undersecretary at the Civil Service Commission Abdul Aziz Al Zaban said yesterday that the number of Kuwaitis employed through the youth orientation and working force planning office since its establishment in 1988 until last February reached 7,389.

Zaban told Kuna that the office had achieved remarkable progress in guiding Kuwaiti graduates.

He noted that a shortage in private sector jobs is one of the major difficulties facing the office and added that some graduates ask for certain jobs and employers, though job opportunities are available in other places.

The Civil Service Commission's official said that the office was founded to provide information about private and public institutions seeking qualified youth and also furnishing graduates with useful professional advice on their careers.

Mindanao support

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): The Islamic World Committee appealed here today to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to support Filipino Muslims in the region of Mindanao and submitted a special draft plan to help people of Jammu and Kashmir demanding independence.

Chairman of the Islamic World Committee Abdullah Suliman Al Attiqi told Kuna that the people of Mindanao have the right to demand recognition of their Muslim identity and self determination like any other people, particularly that it is being ignored by the Philippines government.

The committee, based in Kuwait, urged the OIC to support the case of the Muslim people in Mindanao and recognise its legitimate representative the Islamic "Moro" front, and called on Egypt, which will host the OIC meeting next July, to refuse the Filipino special request to omit Mindanao issue from the conference's agenda.

On the other hand, the committee has submitted a special draft plan supporting people of Jammu and Kashmir resistance.

It added that the plan aims to study the refugees situation and improve their social and health conditions, and to provide them with shelter and spread Islamic teachings.



Just remember that this man has twice more the number of children in this picture.

More the merrier for Taha

65 children and more on the way

ABDUL AMIR MAKKI TAHA, a Kuwaiti citizen born in 1931 said that his major hobby in life "is to produce children". He married as many as 24 women some from Kuwait and others from several Arab countries. Now he has only four wives, as legally allowed by Islam, and all of them, to satisfy his hobby, are pregnant. But Taha has certainly been fortunate enough, or rather unfortunate as only 9 of the 24 women he married, gave birth to babies. The rest were divorced without children.

Now, he has 65 children, (41 of them males) and 13 grand children from his 3 daughters and 2 sons who are married. Taha stressed that the secret behind his story of many marriages is his absolute love of having children. "This has become my most favourite hobby in life" insisted the man who is now complaining of being indebted because of his "huge army" of children.

He said that some of his marriages were because of love and the rest because of "coincidence" without elaborating. But he stressed that he never got a new wife without informing her of his "full story" about marriages and love of children.

He said he has married Egyptian, Kuwaiti, Iraqi, Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian and stateless wives from Kuwait.

Just

Taha insists that he has always been a man of "justice" to all his wives. He said: "I have always been treating them equally in every respect and used to stay 24 hours with each one of them". He added he never preferred one wife to another and is democratic in running his house affairs. Taha said that whenever he decided to marry again, he used to inform his wives of his plan and had to face a lot of problems and obstacles. Many of the "old" wives filed cases against him. "I had to go to courts and police stations as a result," Taha said.

His marriages "project" began in 1955, when he was only 24. He got married to his first wife who was stateless living in Kuwait. He said that he was forced to divorce her after 28 years of marriage when she decided to stop "reproduction" after giving birth to "only" 10 children. He wanted more. The second wife was from outside Kuwait. He married her in 1960 and divorced her in 1983 after she gave him 9 children. He

didn't explain why he divorced her. The third wife was Iraqi. He married her in 1968, stayed with him for two years only and gave birth to one child. The fourth is also Iraqi. He married her in 1972 and she is still with him. She gave birth to 5 children and is expecting the sixth. The fifth woman is also Iraqi. She is still with him after giving birth to 12 children and is pregnant.

Maintenance

The sixth wife is Egyptian. She holds the record of the number of deliveries she made with 14 children and is expecting the 15th soon. Thus, this wife has remained with him. The 7th is Iraqi and gave birth to 3 children and was divorced while the 8th is Egyptian. He divorced her after giving birth to 3 children. The 9th wife was married to him in 1988, gave birth to one child and is expecting.

Taha said that he got married with the remaining 15 wives outside Kuwait and divorced them there also. He said that such marriages didn't last long and ranged from one week to one year. Although, Taha enjoys his hobby, he feels sad at present. He said that he gets a pension of KDI 300 per month only and this is not enough to maintain a huge family like his. His only king-size family lives in two limited income houses. Taha painfully said that as a result of many debts on him, his houses now have no electricity, water or telephone services. All have been disconnected as he can't pay. But the man has not been convinced of the other way. He insists that he would advise his children to follow their father's footsteps.

One of his wives, the Egyptian who gave birth to 14 children and is expecting the 15th in just 18 years of marriage, said that she is very happy with her husband because he is good and has a clean heart. She said that she maintains excellent relations with the other 3 wives but did not deny some minor daily problems that happens in all homes. She said that he treats his wives equally. She said that she is fully satisfied with her husband and is very happy with him.

But one of his married daughters said that she opposes her father in repeating his experiment or advising her brothers to do the same. She said that she loves all her brothers and sisters. She expressed her dissatisfaction over the way of life her father has been living.

Warning against baby cautery

DR ABDUL RAOUF AL JAWHARI, director of the Jahra Hospital, has warned mothers against using cautery to treat their children from certain diseases or use lead for eye infections, as these methods are far from scientific treatment and can cause serious problems.

He told a local daily that 25 per cent of the Jahra population use this traditional techniques, but when they fail to achieve the expected results they then seek medical attention at the hospital or any health centre in the area.

He pointed out that the hospital and health centres in the area received at least one patient suffering from the effects of cautery, stressing that the number of normal patients has been decreasing due to the continuous efforts to spread health education among patients, however those suffering from the side-effects of cautery are on the increase.

From the courts
Court orders compensation to abused sports teacher

THE Court of Higher Appeal ordered a citizen to pay KD 5,000 as compensation to the teacher of a primary school where the accused's son was studying.

The court was told that the defendant visited his son's school and found him playing in the playground during the sports period. The defendant rushed up to the sports teacher and slapped him, beat him with his shoe on his face and threatened to deport him after publicly berating him in the presence of other pupils. The defendant further claimed that he was a policeman.

Imprisonment

The defendant after this episode became depressed and had to be treated at the psychological hospital which resulted in the Ministry of Education terminating his services.

However, the Ministry of Education referred the incident to the Court of Misdemeanours who sentenced the defendant to one month's rigorous imprisonment. On filing the appeal, the Court of Higher Appeal waived the jail sentence, but ordered the defendant to pay a fine of KD 100.

The victim, however, filed a separate case with the Court of Misdemeanours who taking into consideration his good record and excellent report that are signed by the headmaster of the school and also taking into consideration his dismissal from the job due to his depression suffered as a cause of action by the defendant ordered compensation to be paid valued at KD 15,000.

However, the defendant appealed the judgement to the Court of Higher Appeals and in their deliberations, the Court reduced the compensation to KD 5,000.

Firdous residents bemoan services

A NUMBER of residents in the Firdous Area have on several occasions voiced complaints against services extended to the area and called on the government to resolve their problems.

Interviewed by a local daily, they said that the area comprises old, small and dilapidated buildings and added that the area is littered with garbage, scrap vehicles and old signs stacked at different locations of the area. All these contribute negatively to human health and cause environmental pollution.

Residents expressed surprise at the transfer of the specialised clinics from the area to Riqqa which is a small area compared to Firdous.

A resident, Naser Al Zabi stated that the area has the highest population density and consequently problems increase. He added that officials control prices at the co-operatives which are increasing on a daily basis.

He said that since moving to the area and taking possession of government houses, they have called for establishing specialised clinics. These were provided for a short while and then withdrawn and transferred to Riqqa Area. He said that Firdous is highly populated with Kuwaitis and deserves such services because they have a larger number of elderly and handicapped individuals. He added that the Firdous Area has no public gardens and does not own a youth centre.

Another resident, Mohammed Al Salal said a bridge in the area is essential as it contains many express roads and there have been many accidents involving children. He said that the police station at Firdous should be staffed with more security personnel as thefts and vandalism have increased.

Bahrain still held in esteem by guests and residents

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

BAHRAIN has been a popular destination for expatriate workers from every corner of the world for a long time now. Since the days when oil was first discovered in the early thirties to the present time thousands of overseas workers have been coming to live and work in this island paradise.

Bahrain offers a lot of attractions to a visitor wherever he may come from but above all the feeling of being at home overwhelms every foreigner here.

There is an aura of *je ne sais quoi* about this beautiful island nation that grows on you from the moment you arrive here. Just a few days after landing here a first time visitor becomes totally absorbed with Bahrain's genuine climate of friendliness, hospitality and openness. This feeling of always being welcomed lingers throughout the period of their stay. It is no wonder that some expatriates return to Bahrain either for a short visit to meet old friends and see familiar places or to work again. For indeed it is always difficult to stay away from this tiny nation indefinitely

and of course impossible to ever forget.

Unique

Perhaps Bahrain's unique feature is its perpetual aura of a domestic environment that successfully and completely manages to assimilate all cultures and norms of social life into a single international community. So much so that in Bahrain everyone feels like one big family whatever they do or wherever they go. The country's relatively small size always helps substantially to allow expatriates as well

as nationals to work, live and socialise with an intensity not seen in other Gulf nations.

Hospitality

It is now common knowledge that Bahrain is held in highest esteem and affection by all expatriates who have ever been fortunate to live and work here. Even those expatriates who have worked in other Gulf states for some period and who now live here unabashedly declare that "Bahrain is the best place in the Gulf." Often you come across expatriates who express this sentiment and are not quite sure

what is it that attracts them to this country with such compassion.

Expatriates who would normally not mix freely and intimately with each other in other parts of the world or even in their respective home countries, find themselves drawn together in all aspects of social and cultural occasions. Friendship is indeed made here as soon as one steps in this country as hospitality, is extended to everyone regardless of race, religion, colour and nationality. Bahrain simply grows on every expatriate as time goes by. If ever

the adage home is where the heart is can be suitably applied to any particular country it is the place where some dreams are fulfilled, some hopes are rekindled, but above all where you are sure to be received with open arms at all times. When the time to leave Bahrain arrives it is needless to mention that the heart becomes empty and lost, as if one's leaving home and a place perhaps where one spent some of the happiest and memorable times of one's life. But Bahrain always lives on in the minds and hearts of every expatriate who ever touched its soil.

Iran to import European cigarettes

NICOSIA, April 11, (AP): More than 30 billion cigarettes are smoked in Iran each year, the head of the Iranian tobacco organisation said yesterday.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the unidentified official as saying that Iran will import 14 billion cigarettes in the current Iranian year which began March 21.

He said that \$165 million foreign exchange had been allocated this year for raw materials and machinery for production of 16 billion cigarettes locally.

He added that unlimited foreign exchange at "competitive prices" would be available for production and import of cigarettes.

Officially, the government keeps the rial artificially inflated at 70 rials per dollar. But the dollar is actually available only at much higher, "competitive rates", which are about 10 to 20 times the official price.

Like almost all consumer goods, cigarettes are currently rationed in Iran. But American-made Marlboro and Winston cigarettes are sold alongside the locally produced "Azad" brand at exorbitant prices on the black market.

Unable to buy whole packs at black market rates, locals often buy single cigarettes from ubiquitous vendors found throughout the larger cities.

Iran has a population of 55 million people.

Traffic docu-drama to be aired on KTV

Accidents kill 4,500 in 9 years

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

WITH THE KD 1,250 million Kuwait has lost because of traffic accidents during the last 10 years, the government could have built a thousand schools or 24 thousand houses, according to a docu-drama on traffic issues produced by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

Saleh Jasssem, director of KFAS' Scientific Culture Directorate, said that the 80-minute production titled "Street Wars" aims at presenting the issue of traffic in Kuwait from all possible angles and suggesting solutions. "We did our best to be objective and not to direct any blame or accusations at anybody in particular."

"Traffic accidents are the No. 2 killer in Kuwait after heart disease," said Abdul Mohsen Hayat, "Street Wars" scriptwriter and director adding that in the years from 1979 to 1988, such accidents have caused 4,500 deaths and 21,000 injuries.

Death rate

According to the documentary, there is a car for every four people in Kuwait and the rate of accidents is one of the highest in the world killing and injuring mostly young people.

Road planning, misplaced street signs, wrong timing methods, public transportation, leniency in applying traffic rules and regulations, long emergency phone numbers and lack of necessary education are but some of the issues discussed in "Street Wars."

The English version of this docu-drama is scheduled to be shown on KTV's Programme 2 on Saturday after the evening news. The Arabic version will be shown on Programme 1, Friday also after the evening news.

Agriculture college in Kuwait a must: Khalifa

THE chairman and members of the Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society have called for the establishment of a college for agricultural studies to meet the increasing need for qualified cadres to operate in this field.

The society chairman Mohammad Khalifa highlighted the pioneering role played by the society since its establishment reviewing its various vital activities and attempts to deepen the co-operation between Kuwaiti agricultural engineers and their Arab and foreign counterparts. He added that the need for enhanced capabilities stems from rapid expansion in the field of agricultural and greening projects.

He said that the society encouraged agricultural training through the established official venues, while laying considerable emphasis on the exchange of expertise, and mutual visits to review the achievements made in this field in different countries.

He added that the sole aim of the society is to develop the agricultural sector in the country and optimise productivity, in order to ensure continued progress and success to the national agricultural march.

Mohammed Al Fayez, a member of the society, said that the society strives through the information, cultural and social committees, and via research to carry out its plans and spread agricultural awareness and education to help "optimise" the related development process.

He said the society has been successful in making considerable progress despite its young age, adding that it seeks to contribute actively to improving the level of agricultural output in the country and optimise productivity in co-operation with all related agencies.

He added that the society spares no effort to utilise Gulf expertise in this field and seek to exchange concepts with the Arab countries in the field of growing barley and other plants that are capable of growth under local weather conditions.

The editor-in-chief of the Agricultural Engineer magazine at the society Khadar Al Mazzeedi said that the information and cultural committee at the society adopted several recommendations over the symposium and lectures so far held which stressed the need to impose constraints on imported foods and products locally, in order to encourage local industries and improve the quality.

He said that the committee advocates the rationalisation of using insecticides whereby to protect the consumer from potential hazards.



Aids testing

The head of the virology laboratory at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Dr Wadad Al Naqeb said that his laboratory is conducting about 450-1,000 tests related to Aids.

In an interview with Al Seyassah, the official said that these tests are mainly being conducted on expatriates to ensure that they are free of the Aids virus. He added that his laboratory has been designed to perform tests and diagnosis on all Aids related diseases and said that the lab extends its services to all hospitals in the country.

Moreover, the virology unit at the Bacteriology Department of the Faculty of Medicine of Kuwait University is undertaking identical tests to serve the medical college at Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital. Additionally, it conducts scientific activities on behalf of the World Health Organisation in Kuwait.

The virology lab had been established at the beginning of the 1970s with only one technician. Presently the team consists of four specialists, two chief technicians, 17 technicians and three administrative employees. The lab conducts tests for all kinds of Aids virus, including HIV II, liver virus and respiratory and digestive systems. It also undertakes tests of mumps and child paralysis.

Speaking of the prospective development of the laboratory sector, the official said that it is bound to witness an increase due to the increase in patients and viruses. He commented that during the past 15 years, about 20 new diseases have been discovered.

He said that Aids tests are conducted in secrecy. However, if the patient proves positive, other tests are conducted and in the final analysis if confirmed are referred to authorities for action.

Petrochem complex

No cost overrun permitted: official

By Hussain Salamah

KUWAIT'S petrochemical complex feasibility study covers all aspects of the project and is comprehensive in considering that the amount of KD600 million takes into account all projected changes and developments which could emerge during the implementation period.

Speaking on the issue, an official oil source told Al Seyassah that no cost overruns will be permitted, though he declined to elaborate.

Another oil source praised the measures instituted by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and commented that setting up of the complex will constitute a positive step in economic performance and is based on important dimensions for the future of the Kuwait economy.

Basically, he said that the impetus towards this project stems from prolonged experience with the "roller-coaster-ride" in the international oil market prices and the inherent effects of these fluctuations on the economies of the producing countries.

Kuwait drug problem snowballing: Salem

1,260 addicts receiving attention

LONDON, April 11, (Kuna): Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday proposed adopting strict international measures against countries involved in training or supplying drug traffickers with weapons or other means that could complicate the problem.

Sheikh Salem, addressing the international conference for combating drugs, further proposed that the London declaration of the conference should include asking all world countries to ratify the 1988 UN-sponsored agreement on fighting drugs and to form higher national committees to combat drugs with full jurisdiction.

The minister proposed urging drug producing countries to co-operate with the international community to terminate the problem, improving rehabilitation programmes for addicts, intensifying media campaigns to arrest international drug traffickers, boosting role of family, school and religion in combating the phenomenon, restricting movement of drug convicts and finally exerting more efforts in exposing money laundering which is best used by the international drug dealers.

Sheikh Salem asserted that the first step toward combating that serious crime was boosting international co-operation in deeds rather than words.

He pointed out that leaders of drug smuggling rings are deployed in various areas of the world and using latest technological methods to produce and circulate their destructive merchandise. Numerous studies even indicate that several terrorist operations were linked to drug issues and underlined difficulty of the situation if each country took it on her own to handle the issue.

Summary

The Kuwaiti interior minister presented to the conference a summary of the problem in Kuwait, noting that Kuwait society until a short period of time ago did not experience that problem.

Sheikh Salem said, however, that the problem was snowballing and cited statistics revealing that 1,533 defendants were arrested for drug-related offences in the period 1982-89, while those receiving treatment for addiction in the same period amounted to 1,260 patients.

He listed hashish, heroin, opium and other pills as the most used in the country and elaborated despite the limited dimension of the problem yet the state had enacted a series of measures to check its spread. He cited those as enacting stricter laws punishing drug traffickers and addicts with 15 years imprisonment while allowing the release of the convict if he informs on his associates before the authorities knowledge of them in addition to health programmes to the addicts.

Committees

A national committee, drawing broadlines of combating drugs, was formed to co-ordinate efforts of government and private sectors in the combat operation.

Kuwait, believing in co-operation among countries was the topmost element to ensure success of combat efforts, had co-ordinated combat plans with other Arab countries, the minister said.

He added that Kuwait further co-operated with other world countries and bodies in this regard and noted that Kuwait was about to finalise its ratification procedures of the Vienna Agreement on drug trafficking that was adopted by the UN conference in December 1988.

Sheikh Salem underlined that Kuwait's participation in that conference reflected the increasing concern of the country, topped by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, to strengthen international co-operation in fighting drugs which further

interprets the Islamic religion's teachings.

A Kuwaiti paper earlier affirmed that the production of drugs and its impact on today's society has become a cause of "serious concern" to the world and urged for international co-operation to oversee a solution to the problem.

In a paper presented to the world ministerial drug summit, the document said that the Kuwaiti government has taken certain measures in this respect, mainly based on Islamic teachings.

The paper noted that drugs did not become a menace in Kuwait until five years ago, when the number of drug offenders started to rise. In the period of January 1985 till December of 1989, 1,533 persons were arrested on drug-related charges, according to the paper.

It indicated that in order to curb the drug problem, the Kuwaiti government has passed strict laws, noting that sentences can reach up to 15 years behind bars for drug possession and trafficking.

The government, it pointed out, has established clinics to provide help for users and also a national committee to promote public policies and plans for dealing directly with drug problems.

Internationally, the document went on, Kuwait is totally behind efforts to combat this problem, "and we are applying, wherever possible, the rules of the United Nations convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted in Vienna in 1988."

Hoping that the London gathering would emerge with an international strategy to contain the drug problem, the paper proposed that certain matters will be included in the final declaration of the meetings.

Privatisation will activate economy, says Sharhan

THE Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan has said that the government is sparing no effort to activate the national economy in line with the plans and strategies enforced. He cited as an example that this is reflected in trying to assign some vital services to the private sector.

He told a local daily that the ministry is planning to give up its public communications services to a private company, in compliance with recommendations adopted in the wake of a study conducted with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in 1988 seeking to locate problem areas in this sector.

He added that this concept is intended to reduce the delay caused by the inevitable red tape procedure characterising government operations, even in advanced countries of the world, stressing that the assignment of a private company to take over this service sector will enable the ministry to carry out its related

development plans with optimum results.

The ministry has submitted a memorandum to the Council of Ministers requesting initial approval for the transfer of this service sector to a private company. The memo has been referred to the Higher Planning Council for study and recommendations before final endorsement by the Council of Ministers, the official said.

Study

He added that the ministry will, in a period of a year, prepare a detailed study of this project covering all related economic and security considerations.

Sharhan pointed out that the proposed company will be provided with all needed modern equipment, including a satellite station, telecommunication tower, telephone network and others. Additionally, a special group of maintenance specialists will take over the provision of regular servicing and operation,

of installations in different urban locations in the country.

He added that other small private companies will be set up to operate under the main proposed one which will concentrate on individual ownership to ensure optimisation of services.

The ministry will set up a special department to supervise the operation of the company and bifurcate companies, which will be in control of all technical specifications of the equipment and machines used by the company. The department will also supervise the charges endorsed by the company for its services to ensure that no profit-oriented operation takes over the main-line duty of the company.

He said that more control will be possible over nuisance calls, stressing that the ministry will be in charge of relations between Kuwait and world countries, regarding international conferences, organisations and others, as well as Kuwait's relations with Arab countries.

The company will initially start out with full government ownership, but will gradually be sold out to shareholders, adding that the related sub-companies will be owned by the mother company to an extent of 20 to 25 per cent and that the company will secure its revenues from the rental of equipment, exchange offices and networks.

He said that there are 6700 employees currently operating in this field at the ministry and they will be given intensive training to qualify them for work at the proposed company.

This step is not new in the region as the UAE, Bahrain and recently Oman have adopted the same policy, Sharhan said.

Meanwhile, officials at Kuwait Municipality will hand over all cleaning duties to national companies as of next July. Services will include all Kuwait areas, in addition to residential areas, internal public and external roads.

Training will improve air security, says Shmailan

WASHINGTON, April 11, (Kuna): Kuwait's delegate to the 45th annual conference of the International Federation of Air Pilots' Association briefed a specialised private group here on current and future security procedures and measures in international aviation.

Flight engineer Ayed Shmailan, who represented the Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilots Association at the Ifalpa conference together with ground engineer Anwar Al Yaout, was invited to brief members of the private-owned "Academy Group Inc." which deals with the safety and security of transportation world-wide, including aviation security. The organisation is a pioneer in new procedures in airline security.

In a clear recognition of Kuwait's role, Ifalpa last week adopted recommendations made in a study that had been submitted by the Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilot Association.

In his address, Shmailan focussed on the importance of both training and procedures that could greatly improve security in aviation in the future. As the five-day annual conference of Ifalpa came to a close yesterday, Shmailan also received an invitation by New Zealand Airline Pilots Association to address members in New Zealand on aircraft and airport security based on Kuwait's study and its experience in this field. A future date for the visit will be arranged.

Last week, the Arab airline delegates to the Ifalpa meeting, acting at the invitation of the Kuwait Aircraft Engineers and Pilots Association, adopted a decision calling for the revival of the pan-Arab federation of Arab airline pilots associations, which has been inactive for a number of years. The first meeting is expected to be held in Cairo at the end of May.



Honour ceremony

The Arts College at the University of Kuwait organised a honour ceremony for the former dean of the Arts College, Dr Abdulrahman Al Muhanna the former deputy dean, Dr Yousif Al Motawa, former head of the guidance and supervisory office at the college, Dr Zain Abdul Maqsood.

The party was held at the University Club in Shuwaikh. It was attended by the Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Dr Msaed Al Haroun, the university rector, Dr Shuaib Abdullah, the dean of the

the Arts College, Sulaiman Sadoon Al Bader and a number of deans and teaching staff members at the university.

Assistant Dean for Students Affairs, at the Arts College, Dr Nouriya Al Nouri delivered a speech at the beginning of the party praising the efforts of the three honoured former university officials. Dr Sulaiman Al Bader also spoke on the occasion.

The honoured former officials were presented with shields.

Haj restriction to continue

RIYADH, April 11, (Kuna): Saudi Interior Minister Prince Naif Bin Abdul Aziz said last night that the Saudi authorities will keep in place restrictions on the number of pilgrims expected to flood the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah during this summer Islamic hajj season.

Prince Naif said that the circumstances that led to the

introduction of restrictions two years ago, continued to exist and warrant such measures.

The Saudi top official called on all citizens and expatriates to give the chance for their Muslim brethren who have not performed the religious duty and called on them to follow regulations and help preserve public order.

Assistance for Arab students

KUWAIT, April 11, (Kuna): The International Islamic Charitable Authority (IICA) signed an agreement yesterday with the international establishment for assisting Arab students.

The agreement, it was announced, emphasis on preparing medical staff for hospitals in the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. IICA Chairman Youssef Al Hajji and Chairman of the establishment Dawoud M. Al Salih signed the agreement which will take care of the costs of Arab physicians wishing to offer their services to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

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Thought for today

IT IS not enough to help the feeble up, but to support him — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

Mitsotakis to head govt

Conservatives win Greek polls

ATHENS, (Reuters): Greece's conservatives plan to shake things up, making quick and drastic changes in foreign and economic policies, when they form a government this week for the first time in eight years.

The New Democracy Party won national elections on Sunday and, with the backing of a centrist deputy, now controls 151 seats in the 300-member Parliament.

This should enable conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis, 71, heading Greece's first single party government since last June, to push through the sweeping economic and political reforms he has campaigned for over the past year.

Mitsotakis wants to reverse almost every policy cherished by Andreas Papandreu, socialist prime minister from 1981 to June 1989 and a bitter personal rival for the past 25 years.

His priorities include:

Priorities

— Reaching a new accord on US military bases, threatened with closure in November by a previous socialist government.

— Establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

— Making a decision on extraditing Palestinian commando Mohammed Rashid to the United States where he is accused of bombing a civilian airliner in 1982.

— Cutting at least 300 to 400 billion drachmas (\$1.8 billion to \$2.5 billion) from the 1990 budget as the first step towards bringing big public deficits under control.

"These decisions will be taken quickly," Mitsotakis told Reuters in a pre-election interview.

Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) won power in 1981 partly by exploiting strong anti-US sentiments and promising to send the American military home.

He pursued a staunchly pro-Arab policy, turned down requests by European Economic Community (EEC) countries to extradite suspected terrorists and irritated EEC partners with his maverick stands and demands for money.

"Greece must conform to the new global structure. Greece has to fit into the world as it is now shaping itself," Mitsotakis said, referring to the political changes in Europe and plans for a single, integrated EEC market in 1992.

Greece's EEC partners were exasperated by the weak coalition governments which emerged after inconclusive general elections in June and November last year. All decisions were frozen and the economy steadily deteriorated.

In an indication of his impatience, EEC Commission President Jacques Delors urged the government during the election campaign saying that "immediate and drastic" steps must be taken to save the economy from collapse.

Abolish

Mitsotakis has pledged to abolish regulations imposed on the private sector by the socialists and to make full-scale assault on government spending, which soared under socialist rule.

His election victory and economic programme triggered an explosive rise on the Athens Stock Exchange. The general share index jumped 14.74 per cent from Friday's close to hit a record high of 771.04 points.

When Mitsotakis takes over as prime minister later this week his most ambitious plans will be limited by the one-seat margin underpinning his government.

But it will be the first time in 18 months that Greece has had a stable government with no elections looming on the horizon.

The tough lawyer from Crete said he was waiting for President Christos Sartzetakis to tell him to form a government. It will be his first time as prime minister.

Governed

New Democracy last governed in 1981. It joined coalitions with limited powers after elections last June and November.

Papandreu's socialists terminated the American-Greek bases accord in December 1988 and the Americans had until November 1990 to leave unless a new deal was signed.

Greece is the only European Economic Community country which does not have full relations with Israel. At present Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have equal status with diplomatic missions in Athens. But not embassies.

Mitsotakis said he would tackle heavy state deficits with budget cuts, including an immediate reduction of 300 to 400 billion drachmas (\$1.8 to \$2.5 billion).

The budget in 1989 reached two trillion drachmas (\$12.5 billion), or 22 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Greece's total output of goods and services.

Mitsotakis also plans to raise revenues by selling state industries and launching an investment programme.

Orator

He has been known for years as the only man who can stand up to Papandreu, a brilliant orator, in parliamentary debates.

But he has been accused of using strong-arm tactics to unify New Democracy, which was in disarray when he took over after the party was defeated by the socialists in 1981.

Determined to break the socialists' eight-year grip on power, he stunned many supporters after inconclusive elections in June by forging an unprecedented coalition government with his one-time bitter foes in a communist-led alliance.

His gamble that the right-left coalition, which ordered Papandreu to stand trial on corruption charges, would win him a majority failed to pay off in a November election.

Born to a prominent political family, he joined resistance forces on his home island of Crete in World War II and fought the occupying Germans, who twice sentenced him to death.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1545 — France's King Francis I orders massacre of Vaudois Protestants.

1621 — French forces under King Louis XIII set out to crush Huguenot rebellion.

1654 — Ireland and Scotland are united with England.

1815 — Austria declares war on Joachim Murat, king of Naples, for occupying Rome.

1850 — French troops restore Pope Pius IX and occupy Rome.

1861 — US civil war starts as Confederates (South) take Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

1945 — US president Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at age 63, and Harry S. Truman is sworn in as his successor.

1957 — West German nuclear physicists refuse to co-operate in producing or testing of atomic weapons.

1961 — Soviet Union puts first man in space — Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin makes safe landing after one orbit of earth.

1963 — First armed attack by Indonesian forces on Malaysia.

1966 — US bombers carry out their first strikes against North Vietnam.

1975 — Cambodia's premier Long Boret announces that military government is in charge in his country and will continue fighting communists.

1986 — Commander of "Khalistan Commando Force" terrorists says his rebels are recruiting guerrilla army to battle Indian military for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab state.

1987 — Soviet media reports that two cosmonauts walking in space successfully linked space module to their orbital space station Mir.

1989 — Relentless artillery battles rage between Christians and Muslims as Lebanon's civil war enters its 15th year.

Le Pen woos French voters

Mainstream parties running scared

PARIS, (Reuters): Sergette Fargeau stands out a mile at meetings of the National Front, the French party that wants to repatriate non-European immigrants.

The black former beauty queen from Guadeloupe, a French possession in the Caribbean, is hardly a typical member of the most successful extreme right movement in Western Europe.

A more plausible portrait of a front activist might include the following features: white, male, middle-aged, wears blazers, likes plain talk and hard liquor, served in the armed forces and has never forgiven the political establishment for giving Algeria its independence in 1962.

Admiration

But in common with a growing number of French voters, Fargeau's main reason for joining the front is her admiration for its charismatic leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

"All politicians are liars and I think the only one telling the truth is Mr Le Pen," said Fargeau, who won the coveted "Miss France Overseas" crown in 1982 and now manicures nails for a living in eastern France.

It was lamentable, she complained, that Le Pen's support among French West Indians was so tiny as to be unmeasurable.

"It's because of the media campaign against us which makes people think we are racist," she said in Nice, the wealthy Mediterranean resort where 2,500 front activists came to pay their homage to Le Pen early this month.

The front's congress was the best-attended in its 18 years of existence, reflecting a surge in popularity which is alarming both the socialist government and the centre-right opposition.

The mood in Nice was buzzing with confidence as delegates thronging the bar capped each other's tales of breakthroughs in local elections.

The front's obsessions were on display at stalls rented by right-wing publishers, veterans' associations and groups linked to the traditionalist fringe of the Roman Catholic church which Pope John Paul has disavowed.

"Should Homosexuals be Burned?" asked one book title.

Young women distributed literature purporting to prove that France was overrun by eight million "foreigners" — front code for immigrants from Algeria, Morocco and black Africa.

The government says there are about four million immigrants in the population of 57 million.

Offering a brand of right-wing patriotism that is infused with antipathy for poor immigrants from France's former colonies, 61-year-old Le Pen has defied predictions that he would fade away.

Stock

The front's stock has never been higher. Its vote at almost every important by-election this year has risen sharply and a respected opinion poll in April showed Le Pen was liked by 17 per cent of the French, three per cent up on his March score.

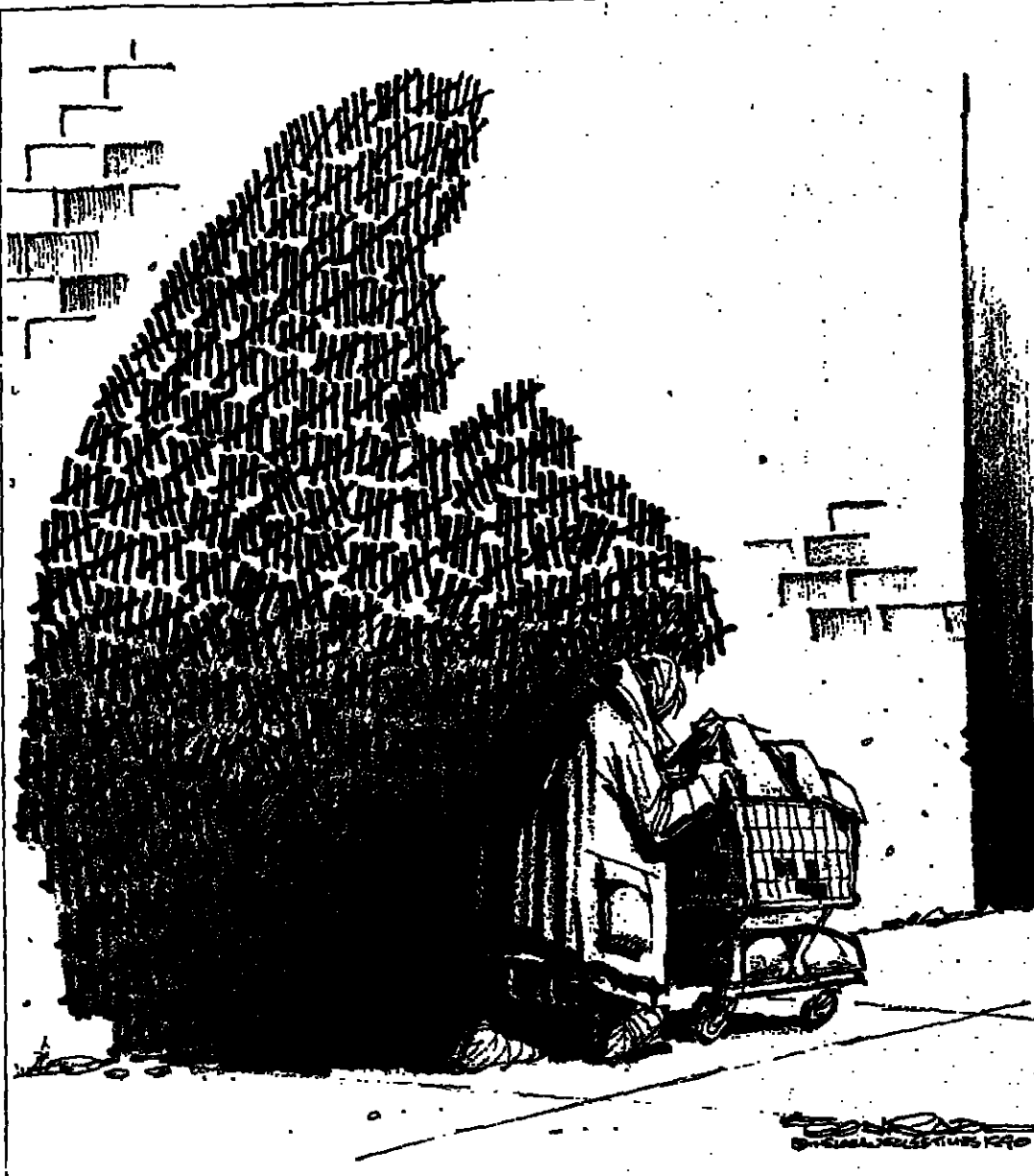
Last December the front captured its only seat in the 577-member National Assembly, winning in the drab northern town of Dreux on an anti-immigrant, law and order platform.

The result showed that a 1988 change in the electoral law, designed to keep fringe parties out of Parliament, was no longer an insurmountable obstacle for the front.

"The big novelty is that the front now appears to more and more voters as the main opposition to the left," said Stephane Rozes of the Sofres polling company.

The front is taking voters from both sides of the spectrum.

Its "France first" image and blunt calls for many immigrants to be sent home appeal to traditional



supporters of the RPR and UDF opposition parties, which have moved to the liberal centre on most issues.

The once-loyal communist vote is collapsing but only partly due to events in Eastern Europe. Some of the front's best scores this year have been in "Red belt" working class suburbs around Paris where communist mayors have clung to power but at the cost of pandering to anti-immigrant sentiment.

But many analysts think the front's secret weapon is the mounting contempt for established politicians.

"There is a sense in which a vote for the front appears to be a punch in the nose for established parties," said Rozes.

Pascal Perrineau, a political science professor in Paris, agreed.

"The traditional right and left parties are in a state of such disintegration and internal division that the National Front appears to be the only united party," said Perrineau, a leading expert on Europe's extreme right.

Immigration

In a state resembling panic, the RPR and UDF this month decided to toughen their language on immigration and proposed a more restrictive nationality code.

Even the government had had to admit the size of the Le Pen phenomenon and agreed to strengthen France's defences against illegal immigrants and bogus applicants for political asylum.

In Nice Le Pen held his audience spellbound with a 90-minute speech during which he linked crime and immigration.

He avoided any mention of Jews after a series of remarks in the past two years for which he is now being prosecuted by the government.

But Jewish groups condemned the presence in Nice of Franz Schoenhuber, leader of West Germany's ultra-right Republicans and a former soldier in Hitler's Waffen SS. Front delegates roared their acclaim when Le Pen hailed his main ally in the European Parliament.

Despite the front's stated goal of widening its political platform to attract more voters, the subject inevitably returned to race and immigration.

A debate on social problems was quickly narrowed down to blaming newcomers for the crime rate and for taking jobs, houses and welfare benefits.

Bruno Megret, one of the front's top five, explained the front's new policy on preserving the environment.

"Ecology is about protecting endangered species like the French people," he said.

Romanian ex-king to return home

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): The return home of Romania's ex-king Michael, dethroned and bundled into exile by the communists 42 years ago, could spark curiosity rather than dreams of a future monarchy.

After Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed last December, the 68-year-old former king said restoration of the monarchy would be the best thing for Romania.

"As constitutional monarch, one can guarantee continuity, safeguard the constitution and ensure political stability," he said.

But in the streets of Bucharest, there is no sign that Michael's planned week-long Easter visit to his homeland, due to start on Thursday, will spark serious demands for revival of a constitutional monarchy.

"Of course people are interested in him, as a part of history," said a young Romanian journalist. "But he doesn't count any more. You can't turn the clock back."

"People don't think of the monarchy as an institution. They were brought up by the Communist Party to be against it."

Interim President Ion Iliescu, an ex-communist and front-runner for presidential elections on May 20, stated flatly on Sunday that Romania was, and would remain, a republic.

The monarch is not a monarch any more, he is a private person. His visit, if any, will have a very personal character. This has nothing to do with the constitutional principles of the state.

But in the volatile climate of an election campaign, some politicians expect demonstrations for or against Michael's trip and have urged him to postpone it.

Letters to the editor

PAC veterans

SIR: This refers to a letter published in the Arab Times (9/4) under the title "Approbation". The heading gives a wrong impression about the contents of the letter. It should have been about the activities or role of Approb in the Pakistani community here but the writer has misled the readers to attract their attention to read his biased and unwanted remarks about his fellow Pakistanis.

The writer claims that Approb has snatched the name of a well-known Pakistani organisation. While this is not the case, the function of March 22 was arranged by the veterans of Pakistan Arts Circle, which has been ironically hijacked by the writer and his cronies.

As a PAC veteran I bring to the notice of the public that funds collected for the "Musical Nite" have nothing to do with Approb and the allegations raised against Approb in this respect are malicious. The accounts of the programme have been properly audited and maintained by the PAC veterans.

Function

The function was the result of the personal efforts of some PAC veterans and admission was by invitation and not through sale of tickets. This was much unlike the past when the writer of the under reference letter has been raising funds and pocketing them after charging for the invitation cards.

The letter confused two totally different organisations under the pretext of criticising the seminar held by Approb. The writer is actually venting his esteem on the Musical Nite. The reason for the frustration on the part of the writer is obvious. He is the so-called president of the PAC and obviously feels that the PAC veterans by organising their highly successful programme has stolen his thunder.

There is clear distinction between PAC and Approb. The PAC is a much older organisation while Approb is a new one. No doubt some of PAC members are also Approb members but they held no position in the decision making of Approb.

PAC is purely a cultural group while Approb is geared towards more academic and educational activities along with benevolent programmes.

Misdeeds

Not content with attributing all sort of misdeeds to the organisers of the PAC veterans, the writer has levelled very serious allegations against the founding

members of Approb and has gone to the extent of challenging their credentials as Pakistani and Muslim. While Approb members are well able to defend themselves but I would like to take this opportunity to point out to the writer and his cohorts that all members of Approb executive board are businessmen or professionals of the highest repute. The fact that the letter writer made them a target for his insane criticism is only an evidence of his own intellectual bankruptcy.

The writer's reference to Approb as an organisation of individuals with questionable characters is very much regretted.

The founding Approb members in my personal views are amongst the cream of the Pakistani society. It is very unfortunate and I publicly apologise for the Approb executive board and the members that due to my association with the PAC, some cheap publicity conscious people have tried to spoil and distort the image of Approb.

As far as the actions of Approb are concerned, I am under no authorisation to speak on their behalf and leave the matter with the Approb to clarify their position. One thing I would like to make clear is that during my more than two decades of professional career in Kuwait this is the first time that I have come across with an association like Approb which unlike others have been a perfect symbol of integrity and morality.

History

For the benefit of your readers I would like to set the record straight with regard to the actual history and background of the PAC which was established in 1965.

A prominent personality of the Pakistani community, Hassan Inam, was the founder president of the PAC which presented its first cultural programme, including a drama entitled "Car Wash-in-lan" in December 1965 at the Kuwait Theatre in Dasmia (brochures of this and other programmes are available with the PAC veterans.) The PAC, afterwards, continued its activities by organising cultural programmes on various occasions.

Inam was a very capable organiser, therefore, as long as he was in Kuwait no one challenged his leadership and he remained president of the PAC until he left Kuwait for Pakistan in 1985. After his departure the PAC became inactive because some of the old members had left Kuwait while others were busy with their personal problems.

Some Pakistanis took the benefit of this situation and stole the PAC to make it a drawing room organisation.

They distributed the PAC offices arbitrarily on a dancer table and started using the PAC banner at indoor "musicians" and other domestic programmes.

These people also used the PAC banner for two "ghazal programmes" held at a 4-star hotel, but according to my information, these programmes were sponsored by the relatives of the visiting Pakistani singers and there was a dispute over the sale of invitation cards, which discreetly appeared in Arab Times.

The Pakistani Arts Circle veterans are now reorganising the PAC to revive its tradition of presenting colourful cultural programmes for the benefit of the large Pakistani community in Kuwait.

The PAC veterans are naming an organising committee to launch a membership campaign, which will be followed by the election of a democratically chosen organising committee to run the PAC to avoid usage of offices for self-aggrandizing.

Abdus Sattar Ghazali,
Member of organising committee,
Pakistani Arts Circle (veterans),
Kuwait.

Another organization

SIR: Yet again another flag of division is unfurled another organization Approb takes birth amidst great fanfare and publicity in a hotel with thousands of dinars spent to feed the already over-fed people.

Each time a party or organisation is formed there is always a tall claim of helping the poor (living in Kuwait?) Pakistanis. It is unfortunate that we people instead of trying to merge the already existing so many political/social charitable organizations in Kuwait under one cohesive umbrella of Pakistan embassy, continue to multiply unabated just for the sake of achieving personal gains, projection and publicity.

The cause of Pakistan and its people is well served if we all organise and united under one flag — Pakistan.

Naem Yashya Mir,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Israel mowing houses to quell 3-year uprising

SURIF, Occupied West Bank, (Reuters): Israel has been destroying Palestinian houses as a means of repressing the uprising in the occupied territories, Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups say.

The groups' figures indicate at least 700 unlicensed houses have been bulldozed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the uprising began in December 1987, nearly double the number pulled down during the previous two years.

At least 260 more houses belonging to families of Palestinians suspected of anti-occupation activities are said to have been destroyed.

Israeli security sources concede that the demolition of houses built illegally, sometimes after years of waiting for permission, has increased since the uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987, but officials deny that the measures are punitive.

Revenge

"They want to take revenge. Perhaps they think they can pressure people to end the intifada (uprising)," said Jihad Al Heeh, an Arab blacksmith from the West Bank village of Surif, whose two-storey house was flattened last August.

Security sources admit at least 700 homes built without licences have been bulldozed. But they say the pace of demolition has eased in recent weeks in response to pressure from the United States.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, in a report last December, quoted former Israeli defence minister Yitzhak Rabin telling Parliament that 505 homes built without permits were destroyed in the first year of the uprising compared with an average of 190 houses in each of the two preceding years.

"These figures...raise the assumption that the security forces use the pretext of illegal construction to demolish homes as an additional method of punishment and as a means of exerting pressure," B'Tselem wrote.

The Israeli action has hit almost every village in the occupied territories, according to the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq.

"More than 70 per cent of West Bank and Gaza Strip villages have been affected by house demolitions," said Khaled Batrawi, senior researcher for the West Bank-based group.

Israeli military security regulations in the occupied territories give commanders control over all construction. They can set the timing and ban or halt building.

With a rising Palestinian population and few permits granted for new construction, it is a hard task for the army to find illicit buildings.

Rubble

Blacksmith Heeh, who built his house in 1988, after five futile years applying for a licence, told Reuters three other village houses were turned into rubble on the same day as his.

Residents in the village of around 10,000 people say only 10 per cent of the houses have been built legally.

The army has destroyed 16 houses in Surif since the end of 1987 and villagers say at least 10 more are slated to face the bulldozer.

Al Haq data shows at least 16 houses have been destroyed in Nijm, near Bethlehem, a village of only 1,000 inhabitants.

B'Tselem says more than 260 homes of Palestinian activists have been razed during the uprising.

The Palestine human rights information centre says in addition more than 785 houses identified with activists were destroyed in the first two years of the 28-month-long revolt.

Israeli officials deny demolitions are designed to subdue the Palestinian revolt.

"All this talk is nonsense," said an official of the Defence Ministry, which administers the area. He said house demolitions were necessary to preserve zoning.

Al Haq, which has investigated more than 200 house demolitions, said many take place after army patrols spot new buildings during sweeps for Palestinian activists.

Military authorities privately acknowledge demolitions are among an armoury of punitive measures such as tax raids and deportation.

They said the civil administration takes the measures to demonstrate Israeli rule over the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Security sources say military administrators in some areas have privately criticised demolition on the grounds that it recruits more people for the uprising than it deters.

QUOTE ME

"With our athletic ability and the time we've spent together, I think we'll have the ability to surprise some people. We're improving every time out. A US player on their chances in the World Cup in Italy."

"Thank you. Today I feel born again. You have given these children hope. You have given them a new life of brotherhood and peace, for that I say in the name of these children and in the words of Jesus Christ: 'Let the children come to me.' — Yasser Arafat to families inside Perugia's Priory Palace in Italy.

"I think it's important to demonstrate the solidarity that the American Congress has with the Lithuanian people. They may feel rather isolated now since the borders have been closed down and foreign journalists have been banned. I think those of us who have freedom, we should let others who yearn for it that the message of freedom is one that we're concerned about." — A US official on events in Soviet Lithuania.

"They noted that German economic and monetary union could contribute to improving world growth and reduce external disequilibria in Europe. The ministers and governors expressed satisfaction on the economic reforms in Eastern Europe on the path of a market economy reforms that they consider as the most important for decades." — A statement from G-7 after its summit in Paris.

"I think it's important to demonstrate the solidarity that the American Congress has with the Lithuanian people. They may feel rather isolated now since the borders have been closed down and foreign journalists have been banned. I think those of us who have freedom, we should let others who yearn for it that the message of freedom is one that we're concerned about." — A US official on events in Soviet Lithuania.

"At the moment when Soviet tanks were going by our Parliament, we did not feel alone when we got the news that our question is being discussed in the Congress of the United States." — Saudargas expressing gratitude for the US government.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Energy file

Iran gas exports to USSR resume

NATURAL gas exports to the Soviet Union are the cornerstone of Soviet-Iranian economic co-operation, according to Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nourbakhsh.

Iran's gas exports to the Soviet Union were resumed after an interruption of 10 years from Astara, Iran yesterday. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the two sides.

Nourbakhsh told the press that the resumption of gas sales to Moscow would help Iran implement nine major projects, adding a total of \$6 billion will be injected into these projects which are to be implemented with Soviet collaboration.

The minister said during the current five-year plan \$23 billion in hard currency had been earmarked for energy, industry, agriculture and telecommunications.

With further investment in the future, the country would become self-sufficient in various steel products and raw materials required for industrial, petrochemical and household appliance manufacturing units.

Nourbakhsh indicated that the five-year plan would help the country enjoy a positive balance of payments. He also added that \$23.9 billion would be raised in taxes this year, three times the amount collected last year.

Corporation, an affiliate of the Venezuelan National Oil Company (PDVSA) is experimenting with compressed natural gas as a cheaper, cleaner alternative to gasoline, diesel and fuel oil, using a small fleet of company trucks, according to officials in Caracas.

Malaysian oil companies have asked the government to increase their commission rates for petroleum products, it has been reported in Kuala Lumpur.

The companies, whose retail business is governed by the Automatic Price Mechanism (APM) system, pointed out that the rates were last reviewed in 1983.

Nigeria will join the ranks of leading gas producers when its 4.5 million tonne per year LNG project comes on stream in 1993, according to Brian Lavers of the Shell Petroleum Development Company.

The Tunisian government has offered a Canadian company an oil and gas exploration concession in the southern part of its Gulf of Gabes offshore oilfield.

According to the Tunisian news agency, Hooker International, the Canadian firm, will look for oil in an area stretching over 996 km.

A number of Tunisian companies will also be involved in the operation, but no details are so far available.

Singapore Petroleum Company (SPC) has announced expansion plans which will see it building a \$50 million oil storage terminal on Pulau Sebarok, an island south of Singapore.

The oil terminal will give SPC greater scope for its oil trading, as it will offer additional storage capacity for products traded with countries like the Middle East and the United States.

Luck was on the side of British Petroleum in its cleanup of the 400,000-gallon (1.5 million litre) oil spill in Huntington Beach, California, the president of the oil company's American division said on Tuesday.

"We were lucky - lucky that things didn't turn out far worse than they did," James Ross, president of BP America told a group of Anchorage business leaders.

Ross also said BP's oil-spill preparation contributed to the company's luck.

"We had been preparing for a calamity like this one," he said in BP America took place hardly a month before the actual spill. That gave us good training and leverage when the real thing occurred."

The February 7 spill occurred when the hull of a supertanker contracted by BP, the American trader, was pierced by an anchor.

Ross said US Coast Guard officials were still investigating the cause of the accident. But government officials worked quickly to help BP respond to the disaster, he said.

"In this spill, we escaped the sad trap of jurisdictional disputes and competing government orders during that critical early time when we had to act," he said.

BP was fortunate that the spill occurred in an area where cleanup workers and equipment were readily available, Ross said. He contrasted Huntington Beach with the remote Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska beaches that were fouled by Exxon Valdez oil.

GCC-EEC trade up by 14.2 pc

DUBAI, April 11. (Opecna) The total volume of trade between the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1988 stood at \$25.8 billion, compared with 22.6 billion in the previous year, an increase of 14.2 per cent.

A report issued by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the increase was

due to a 32.5 per cent rise in EEC exports to GCC states - from \$12.9 billion in 1987 to 17.1 billion in 1988. GCC exports to the community fell by 10.3 per cent in the same period.

The main GCC imports from the EEC included machinery and equipment, manufactured goods, chemicals and foodstuffs, the

report said, with consumables amounting to 30 per cent of the import figure.

The chamber said that the community's imports from the GCC states constituted crude oil, liquefied gas, aluminium and petrochemicals. About 82.9 per cent of GCC imports came from the United Kingdom, France, Italy, West Germany and Holland.

US crude oil prices tumble

Opec blamed for plunge

NEW YORK, April 11. (Reuters) Crude oil prices, depressed by bulging US inventories and Opec overproduction, tumbled yesterday to close below \$18 a barrel for the first time since August 1989.

Expectations that an American petroleum institute report to be released later would show crude stocks buildups also contributed to the market's already overwhelmingly bearish tone.

On the New York mercantile exchange, crude oil futures for May delivery finished at \$17.68 a barrel, down 76 cents.

"We can reasonably expect a bounce to recover from this bloodbath, but beyond that the market looks like it's going to remain weak because production is outpacing demand for the time being and storage space is so tight," United Energy Inc analyst Kevin Breslin said.

New Saudi oilfield Sweet crude

NICOSIA, April 11. (Reuters) The Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Saudi Aramco) has discovered an oilfield which yields a sweet, light type of crude oil in the area where similar discoveries were made recently, Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

SPA late yesterday quoted the minister as saying the new Saudi Aramco well, located east of Hawtah and southeast of Riyadh, was called Naim-1 and was spudded on February 14.

Nazer said during testing at a depth of 3,843 to 8,945 feet the oil gushed at a rate of 2,800 barrels per day. Some 600,000 cubic meters of gas was also produced.

The oil was sweet - with no or little sulphur - and light with 42.4 API (American Petroleum Institute) specific gravity.

Light and sweet crudes fetch better market prices as they yield more gasoline when refined and contain little pollutant sulphur.

Nazer told SPA that the company planned to continue drilling on the site to assess the dimensions of the new oilfield.

The company has discovered three oilfields, or part of a giant new oilfield as some experts claim, in the centre of the Arabian peninsula, south of Riyadh, since last year.

All three wells, Al-Hawtah-1, Dilmah-1 and Al-Raghib-1 yielded a sweet, light crude oil.

Heavy Opec production is also hitting world oil prices hard, according to traders, who described the market as fundamentally weak.

North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude, fell 65 cents, following a 75 cents drop on Monday, to \$15.95 a barrel yesterday.

Dubai, the key Middle East marker grade, was at \$14.05 for many cargoes, down 50 cents from Monday and \$1 below last Friday.

"A lot depends on Opec deciding at some stage to curtail supply, which would take him, but which would calm the market," one trader said.

"On the other hand a lot depends on consumption of oil products - gasoline, heating oil," the trader added, summing up the sentiment that has led to such precipitous falls in prices worldwide.

As investors expected the API to report lower inventories, they sold positions in other petroleum products.

"The market still thinks there'll be products drawdowns, but expected sharp increases in crude will more than offset any bullish impact from product drawdowns," said Jim Steel, an analyst with Refco Inc.

Unleaded petrol sank 2.46 cents and settled at 58.43 cents a gallon, while heating oil lost 0.67 cent and closed at 52.40 cents a gallon.

"Opec's production is the reason for the sharp drop in crude oil prices and it's up to Opec itself now to take effective measures to stop the declines," said Masao Ito, a general manager at Nippon Oil in Tokyo.

More than \$2.50 has been wiped off the value of an average barrel of crude oil in less than a week.

The Middle East Economic Survey (Mees) estimated Opec's production hit a nine-year high of more than 24 million barrels per day (bpd) in March.

"Demand for Opec crude in the second quarter is around 22 million bpd," said Satoshi Ueki, chief economist at Japan's Idemitsu Kosan. "Opec production at 24 million will ensure that prices will continue to fall."

"From the demand side there is no optimistic picture," said Ito. "Physically the major consuming nations cannot absorb all this crude so Opec cannot keep up the production."

Yesterday, the American Petroleum Institute reported that US crude oil stocks had risen to around 370 million barrels, their highest level for the time of year since 1982.

Demand from Japan, the world's second largest oil importer after the United States, is expected to fall below three million bpd in the second quarter from around 3.5 million in the first, due to scheduled refinery maintenance, Japanese refiners say.

And even very low oil prices are unlikely to encourage Japanese bargain-hunting buying, they say.

Most oil sources say any turnaround will have to come from the supply side.

No open door policy: Singh

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, April 11: India has made it clear that there would be no open door policy on foreign investments.

In a forthright enunciation of the new government's economic policies, Prime Minister V.P. Singh said yesterday that India welcomed investment but on its own terms.

"Singh said the government would continue to be selective about the areas in which foreign investment would be permitted. 'There are certain areas where foreign investment is not necessary but there are large areas in which it is welcome', he said.

The prime minister said the government would make its policy on foreign investment more transparent, clearly identifying the areas in which it was welcome. In such areas, the government was also considering granting of automatic approval in projects with less than 40 per cent foreign equity, he said.

First
Singh was inaugurating the two-day national meeting on India organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI). Former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre is the chairman of the conference, which is being attended by delegates from around the globe.

Incidentally, this was Singh's first interaction with the business and industry after assuming office and his address was a major statement of policy for the new government.

The prime minister said special consideration would be shown to projects which strengthened India's export efforts. He pointed out that the quantum of foreign investment in the country was still much smaller than what the economy could absorb. Among the many other attractions, India offered a large market of more than a hundred million consumers with surplus purchasing power, he said.

Ceiling
Singh said though there was usually a 40 per cent ceiling on foreign equity, India was prepared to consider higher limits for projects in high-technology areas and for export-oriented ventures. He said India's exports, and the foreign exchange earnings from them, were the country's lifeline. He limited the country's capacity to absorb foreign investment.

He pointed out that rupee profits on projects with foreign investment were allowed to repatriate in dollars, a commitment on which India had never defaulted so far. Against this background, foreign investors should, apart from becoming partners in some companies, also share the constraints of the country's economy and its responsibility to raise exports, he said.

Singh explained at length the strengths and weaknesses of the Indian economy and the complications that dictated the government's economic policies. He said India had averaged a growth rate of 5.3 per cent during the eighties, more than all other developing countries. This rate of growth had to be stepped up with a wider distribution of benefits, he said.

The prime minister also made it clear that agriculture and rural development would have the first claim on the scarce resources, this being the surest way of overcoming poverty. Industry would not, however, be neglected.

The government policies would be aimed at modernisation and technological upgradation of the industry and strengthening of the capital markets, he said. Bureaucratic control over industry would be reduced through simplification of procedures and licensing. The corporate tax structure had been modified and would be rationalised further, he said. Some of these issues would be spelt out in detail in the long-term fiscal policy to be announced later this year, he said.

Grim
Describing the balance of payments situation as grim, Singh said the government aimed at keeping commercial borrowings at prudent levels and pegging the budget deficit at a manageable level.

The prime minister said the government would welcome the entry of the private sector into the infrastructure sectors like energy and transport, but details had to be worked out. He ruled out the dismantling of the public sector, saying it had a crucial role to play.

Ershad also reviewed the country's economic situation at a cabinet meeting last night, which BSS said considered the current \$450 million foreign-exchange reserves a "satisfactory level."

Economists and politicians have said the sharp fall in reserves from \$1.02 billion in March, 1989, indicated the country is heading for an economic crash.

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Dollar rises against yen

Tokyo stock prices fall

TOKYO, April 11. (AP) The Tokyo Stock Exchange's chief index erased its early gains and fell back today as the US dollar quickly rose against the Japanese yen in the afternoon.

The dollar ended at 158.50 yen, up 0.35 yen from yesterday's close of 158.15 yen. It opened lower, at 157.60 yen, and ranged between 157.50 and 158.50 yen.

The currency rose as investment trust companies bought it for technical position adjustments following the currency's lower opening in Tokyo after its overnight downswing on overseas markets, dealers said.

Many players, including institutional investors, remained on the sidelines, said Shinzo Yamamoto, a trader with Daiwa Bank.

"The dollar started rising as market players bought it when it fell as low as 157.50 yen, but there was no dollar-selling drive to push it back," he said.

Down
On the stock exchange, the 225-share Nikkei stock average lost 184.40 points, or 0.62 per cent, ending the day at 29,440.38 points. The index regained 320.33 points, or 1.08 per cent, at the end of morning trading. Yesterday it lost 773.25 points.

Volume on the first section, where most blue chip stocks are listed, was a thin 500 million shares, down from 550 million the previous day.

A Nomura Securities trader attributed the index's afternoon losses to the yen's downturn and an increase in the commercial paper (CP) rate.

"The market was largely discouraged by the upswing in the CP rate, which rose above 7 per cent," he said, adding that the increased renewed fears of increased interest rates.

CP is unsecured promissory notes for corporations, issued to provide short-term financing. They are sold at a discount and redeemed at face value, and their rates are considered a key indicator of short-term interest rate movement.

Higher interest rates tend to discourage stock investment. Japan's central bank raised its official discount rate last month to 5.25 per cent from the previous 4.25 per cent, but since then Japan's central bank and Finance Ministry continue to rule out an additional discount rate hike.

Wiped out
In earlier trading, the Nikkei rose following the yen's higher opening against the dollar, traders said.

"The yen plunged yesterday because of doubts about group of seven co-operation in supporting the yen, but its overnight gain overseas wiped out such fears among Japanese participants," said Katsuya Igarashi, a trader with New Japan Securities Co.

Discouraged by the yen's downswing, the price of the benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bonds closed at 86.30 points, down from yesterday's close at 86.54. Their yield rose to 7.295 per cent from the previous day's 7.245 per cent.

In London, the dollar opened mostly lower against major European currencies today. Gold and silver were mixed.

The dollar opened slightly lower in Zurich at 1.4965 Swiss francs against 1.4985 at yesterday's close. It was lower in Paris at 5.6180 French francs against 5.6280, and in Brussels at 34.63 Belgian francs against 34.95.

The pound opened higher at \$1.6420 compared to \$1.6355 at yesterday's close.

The dollar opened lower in Frankfurt at 1.6735 marks against 1.6918, and also was lower in Milan at 1.229, 50 lire against 1.242.60.

The dollar closed lower in Hong Kong at 7.7977 Hong Kong dollars against 7.7997.

Gold closed lower in Hong Kong at \$374.25 per ounce against \$375.85 per ounce.

In Zurich, gold opened lower at \$374.00 per ounce against \$375.50 per ounce, but was higher in London, opening at \$375.50 per ounce against \$375.25.

Silver opened unchanged in Zurich at \$5.10 per ounce, and was lower in London at \$5.10 per ounce against \$5.13 per ounce.

Gold was trading at \$373.80 per ounce in late trading in London against 375.35 60 in New York yesterday.

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Tokyo shares

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|------|
| Nikkei stock average: 29440.38 (-184.40) | | Mazda M C | 849 |
| Volume: 500 mil shs | | Mitsubishi Corp | 1380 |
| Yen exchange rate: 158.50 | | Mitsubishi Estate | 1580 |
| Name of stock | | Mitsubishi H I | 911 |
| Advantest Corp | | Mitsui R E | 1730 |
| Ajinomoto | | Mizuno Corp | 1610 |
| Alps Electric | | Mochida Ph | 4130 |
| Amada | | Mori Seiki Co | 3550 |
| Asahi Chem Ind | | NEC Corp | 2200 |
| Asahi Glass | | Nikon Corp | 1410 |
| C. Itoh Co | | Nippon Shin Co | 1090 |
| Canon Inc | | Nippon Steel | 565 |
| Casio Comp | | Nipponendo | 2140 |
| Dai Nippon Printing | | Nitsuko Corp | 1450 |
| Daichi Seiyaku | | Nomura Sec | 2220 |
| Dainippon Ph | | Okuma Mach | 1470 |
| Daishinku Corp | | Onward K Co | 1840 |
| Eisai | | Orix Corp | 4510 |
| Fanuc Ltd | | Pioneer Elec Co | 6200 |
| Fuji Photo | | Renown Look Inc | 1790 |
| Fujitsu Ltd | | Sanyo Elec Co | 813 |
| Hitachi Credit | | Secom Co., Ltd | 5680 |
| Hitachi Koki | | Shinetsu Chem | 1580 |
| Hitachi Ltd | | Shindengen Elec | 1120 |
| Hitachi Metal | | Sony Corp | 8590 |
| Honda Motor | | Sumitomo Elec Ind | 1510 |
| Ito Yokado Co | | Sumitomo Metal Ind | 551 |
| Kajima Corp | | Takeda Chemical | 1900 |
| Kawasaki H I | | TDK Corp | 6670 |
| Kobe Cast Iron | | Tokio Marine & Fire | 1490 |
| Kokusai Elec | | Tokyo Elec Power | 3960 |
| Komatsu Ltd | | Tokyo Electron Ltd | 4090 |
| Kyocera Corp | | Toppan Printing | 1890 |
| Marui | | Toray Ind Inc | 782 |
| Matsushita Ind | | Toshiba Corp | 1100 |
| Mat Electric | | Toyota Motor | 2420 |
| | | Yaskawa Elec | 1000 |

Bombay shares

| Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) | | | | Indrol | 202.50 | 207.50 | 205 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---|--------|--------|--------|
| April 10, '90 | | | | JK Sun | 58 | 58 | 58 |
| Pr. Close | | | | Kn Engg | 147.50 | 142.50 | 147.50 |
| Open | | | | Kir Camm | 80 | 79 | 80 |
| Close | | | | KSB Pumps | 225 | 222.50 | 227.50 |
| ACC | 422 | 433 | 432 | L & T | 91 | 93 | 92 |
| Alem Chem | — | — | — | Lipton | 92 | 91 | 92 |
| Alk Nis | — | — | — | Mac Ruvel | 113.75 | 112 | 116 |
| Ani Fab | — | — | — | Mad Coas | 112.50 | 110 | 112.50 |
| Ashok Ley | 79 | 73 | 80 | Mahindra | 33.75 | 32.50 | 30 |
| Asa Paim | 222.50 | 223 | 226.25 | Mas Share | 17.86 | 17.85 | 17.85 |
| Autu Corp | 64 | 34 | 34 | Mico | 850 | 845 | 855 |
| Atlas Corp | 62.50 | 65 | 63.75 | Milkfood | 190 | 180 | 190 |
| Bajaj Auto | 426.25 | 433.75 | 427.50 | Modi | 48 | 46 | 50 |
| Bar Rayon | 837.50 | 862.50 | 852.50 | MRFL Ltd | 205 | 207 | 207 |
| Bon Dye | — | — | — | Muk Iron | 132 | 133 | 133 |
| Blow Plast | 201.50 | 205 | 204.50 | Nat Org | 1250 | 1300 | 1250 |
| BK Bond | 114.75 | 117 | 114 | Nippon | 43.50 | 43 | 43.50 |
| Burr Wel | 80 | 75 | 80 | Orkay | 16 | 15.75 | 15.75 |
| Canshare | — | — | — | Oswal Agro | 42.75 | 42 | 43 |
| Cen Enka | 3325 | 3350 | 3350 | Peco | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| Cen Sps | 3100 | 3160 | 3130 | Pfizer | 216.25 | 215 | 216.25 |
| Colgate | 215 | 216.25 | 215 | Prem Auto | 59 | 60 | 60.25 |
| Crompt Gr | 920 | 910 | 920 | Ranbaxy | 97.50 | 90 | 97.50 |
| DCM | 20 | 19 | 20 | Ray Weid | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Dynatert | 29 | 28.75 | 29 | Reliance | 207.50 | 205 | 207.50 |
| Enka | 56 | 55 | 57 | Sellusa | 58.50 | 60 | 63.50 |
| EI Hotels | 62 | 60 | 62.50 | Sesa Goa | 95.50 | 98 | 98 |
| Essor | 86.90 | 88 | 87 | Shree Wall | — | — | — |
| FSB Index | 837.50 | 781.17 | — | Shree Cem | — | — | — |
| Gayak | 130 | 128.75 | 130 | Siemens | 55 | 53 | 55 |
| Gayasp | 34.50 | 34.50 | 35 | Shri Fin | 114 | 116 | 116 |
| Gen Sps | 118 | 121.25 | 120 | Shri Ind | 1265 | 1360 | 1360 |
| Forbes | 90 | 48 | 50 | Sp Mills | 56.25 | 57 | 57 |
| Gar Poly | 35.25 | 35 | 35.50 | Sp Mills | 75 | 74 | 74 |
| Gilindia | 98 | 99 | 98 | Tata Chem | 120.50 | 119.50 | 120 |
| GNAC | 38.75 | 40 | 39.50 | Tata Pow | 450 | 452.50 | 460 |
| Grasim | 122.50 | 124 | 123.75 | Telco | 135 | 137.50 | 137.50 |
| Grp Shng | 50 | 50.50 | 51 | Thapp Agro | 126 | 130 | 128 |
| Grup | 171.25 | 170 | 172.50 | Van Org | 145 | 143.75 | 145 |
| Guj Ali | 83.50 | 81 | 83 | Vareli | 77 | 76 | 77 |
| Guj Heavy | 16.50 | 15.50 | 16.50 | Volras | 77 | 76 | 77 |
| Hore Honda | 17 | 15 | 17 | Wimco | 18 | 18 | 18.50 |
| Hind Ciba | 1210 | 1230 | 1240 | Zinnit | 52 | 50 | 52 |
| Hind Lever | 112 | 113 | 112 | Zuni Agro | 37 | 53 | 57 |
| Hind Coca | 151.25 | 152.50 | 152.50 | Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co. | | | |
| Hind Motor | 25 | 25.75 | 26 | | | | |
| Hindauto | 275 | 278.25 | 270 | | | | |
| Hoceest | 1740 | 1780 | 1770 | | | | |
| Ingersoll | 220 | 217.50 | 222.50 | | | | |
| Int C | 61 | 62 | 61 | | | | |
| ITC | 19 | 49.75 | 49.50 | | | | |
| Int Rayon | 104.50 | 106 | 103 | | | | |

BUSINESS

Stock trading manners okayed

WASHINGTON, April 11. (UPI) — A world-wide securities group yesterday endorsed procedures to facilitate international stocks trading by bringing markets closer to global standards of clearance and regulations.

The International Councils of Securities dealers and self-regulatory associations representing self-regulatory organizations and dealers in the United States, Britain, Canada, France and Japan, endorsed the procedures at the conclusion of a two-day conference on world equity markets.

In a luncheon address to the councils, Federal Reserve Board vice-chairman Manuel Johnson voiced his support for the "coordination of the rules of the game" sought by the organization.

Favour
Johnson also said that the Fed favours both a unification of securities regulatory structures in the United States and a financial system that would allow securities companies and banks to operate within each other's presently exclusive spheres of activities.

As long as banks' subsidiaries have no access to resources from their parent organizations, which can rely on the safety net of Federal Deposit Insurance Programme and the Fed as a lender of last resort, they should be allowed to operate in securities and insurance, Johnson said.

"The councils took a step toward promoting the growth of cross-border equity trading by endorsing the Group of Thirty resolutions to speed up the clearance and settlement process and reduce risk to participants," Edward I. O'Brien, president of the New York-based Securities Industry Association, told a news conference.

The G-30 is a London-based organization of financial leaders throughout the world.

Nasdaq's president Joseph R. Hardiman said that cross border equity trading increased 16-fold since 1979 to nearly \$1.5 trillion and is expected to approach \$5 trillion by the year 2000.

The major barrier to the growth of global stock trading are the "inefficiencies" investors confront, Hardiman said.

The councils "addressed the most significant inefficiency, the lack of standards to facilitate cross-border clearance and settlement," he said.

Systems
Hardiman noted that the process by which securities are delivered and paid for by investors in international transactions is marked by the existence of widely varying systems, time frames and procedures.

The organization also agreed that its members furnish each other with information on a confidential basis to enhance enforcement and regulatory efforts.

Discussion

The two days of meetings also involved discussions on the need for co-ordinated capital adequacy requirements and a code of conduct for brokers, as well as programme trading and stock price volatility. Among the main Group of Thirty recommendations — whose endorsement does not compel councils' members to the specific time frames — are:

- Delivery versus payment should be employed by 1992 for settling all securities transactions.

- By 1990, comparisons of trades between dealers should be done by trade date plus one, a process that now takes up to five days or more in some countries.

- A "rolling settlement" system should be adopted by all markets and final settlement should occur on transaction date plus five by 1990.

- Institutional investors or parties that are not brokers should, by 1992, be members of a trade comparison system, which exist for those investors that are unwilling or unable to participate in a risk-sharing arrangement.

- Each country should have by 1992 a central securities depository, which immobilizes stock certificates to facilitate book entry processing of securities.

UK markets strive to stay ahead in Europe

Liffe-Ltom merger soon: door left open for other exchanges to follow suit

LONDON, April 11. (Reuters) — The planned merger of two of Britain's futures and options exchanges into the biggest market of its kind in Europe could set a trend as London tries to protect its place as the continent's financial capital.

"In an ideal world, London's best interests would be served by having all the markets together," said David Burton, chairman of the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) which vies with France's Maf for top spot in Europe.

Following the announcement in early April the Liffe and the London Traded Options Market (Ltom) were pursuing merger plans, the door has been left open for other exchanges to join them.

"Consideration would be given for other markets to join," Geoffrey Chamberlain, chairman of Ltom, told Reuters.

Among potential bedfellows are the London Soft Commodity and Energy Futures Exchanges.

A Liffe-Ltom merger, first mooted in 1987, will not be achieved quickly. A working group set up to

plan details of the link-up is to report back by the end of this month on where to house a single trading floor.

Liffe will either move from its present cramped base at the Royal Exchange near the Bank of England, the central bank, to join Ltom on the old London Stock Exchange floor.

Or the two will move to a new site in a building above Cannon Street railway station, also in the heart of London's financial district.

The working group, chaired by the Bank of England, which is said to favour uniting such markets to head off foreign competition, is to provide definite proposals by the end of June.

Burton does not expect Liffe, which trades debt futures, and Ltom, which deals in equity options, to make the final move to a single trading floor for 12 to 18 months.

Although the diverse interests of other exchanges will probably lead to lengthy negotiations about any further mergers, the growing power of futures and

options markets in France and West Germany is likely to concentrate minds.

Some exchanges are giving the idea serious consideration.

Peter Wildblood, chief executive of the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), told Reuters: "We have always taken a view that there would be sense if a suitable venue at a suitable cost could be found."

Mark Blundell, his opposite number at the soft commodity exchange London Fox, which was the world's largest cocoa futures market, added: "It's certainly something that we would be prepared to consider."

Fox could face higher costs in its present building when the rent comes up for review in June 1992. "If we were to move, this would be a logical point," Blundell said.

The London Metal Exchange (LME), the world's biggest organised metals market, is taking a back seat. It is in no rush to move as its lease only expires

in 1994. The tiny Baltic Futures Exchange (BFE), which trades futures in freight, grains, soymeal and potatoes, would ideally like to seduce Fox and perhaps the IPE to come to its building, which has a marble floor and a long tradition.

"Getting everybody, whether they trade soymeal or buns (German bonds), on the same floor is not necessarily the right way," said James Gray, chairman of the BFE marketing committee.

Various taxation and regulatory changes announced in the British budget speech last month should help futures and options funds to bloom and give a boost to London business.

Liffe's volume rose to 9.5 million contracts in the first quarter from 4.9 million in the same period last year, while the French financial futures market Maftraded about 8.6 million in the first three months of this year. West Germany's Deutsche Terminboerse is much smaller.

EEC dragging feet at Uruguay trade talks

'Needs of Third World ignored'

GENEVA, April 11. (UPI) — The United States, European Economic Community and developing countries sharply blamed each other yesterday for blocking real progress at the troubled Uruguay round trade talks.

Washington singled out the community for "dragging its feet" on the crucial issue of more liberal farm trade and the EEC accused the United States of unilateral protectionism to try and improve its balance of trade.

Developing countries meanwhile said their special needs are being largely ignored by the richer nations who are to blame for "lack of substantive progress."

The Uruguay round was launched in late 1976 but is faltering badly on key issues despite a scheduled package deal deadline of December this year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bechtel wins HK contract: Bechtel has signed an agreement with the Hong Kong government to help manage the building of a new international airport and numerous related projects valued at \$16 billion, the company announced Tuesday in San Francisco.

The entire project consists of a collection of infrastructure projects, including an airport serving greater Hong Kong, two major harbour crossings, expressways and a passenger rail transit system, Bechtel said.

Bechtel said the contract signed Tuesday was for management services for phase one of the Hong Kong airport works project. (UPI)

Siemens-Nixdorf merger: The West German cartel office Tuesday gave Siemens the go-ahead to acquire majority shareholding in the Nixdorf computer firm, a move that will result in the creation of the largest data and information technology firm in Europe.

Announcing its decision, a spokesman for the official cartel office said the new firm, to be known as Siemens-Nixdorf Information Systems AG, will still face stiff major competition from other West German as well as foreign companies.

Siemens, already Western Europe's largest electronics concern recently embarked on a major expansion drive, that included an accord with International Business Machines Corp. and a hostile takeover — together with General Electric Co. of Britain — of the British Electronics Concern Plessey (UPI)

NTT selects contractors: Japan's giant domestic telecommunications company said Wednesday it has selected a US-Japanese joint venture for construction of its new head office in Tokyo.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. said Cesar Pelli and Yamashita Associated Architects have been selected as its contractor from among seven applicants which earlier passed pre-qualification screening. (UPI)

UK Savoy reports profit rise: Savoy Hotel group, fresh from a bruising battle to secure its independence from an acquisitive motorway catering conglomerate, reported a modest rise in 1989 profits on Tuesday but predicted tougher times ahead.

Pre-tax profits last year rose to £13.1 million (\$21.4 million) from £12.5 million (\$20.4 million) in 1988.

Turnover increased to £89 million (\$45 million) from £75.2 million (\$122.6 million). (Reuters)

German investments: West German firms will invest up to \$5.8 billion in an East German gas station chain, a West German association of traders in minerals said in a report published Tuesday.

The Union of Mineral Trade (MTU) also said its members will help East Germany introduce heating oil to replace the environmentally hazardous brown coal — the major source of heating energy in East Germany.

The report said setting up the planned gas station chain will entail the renovation of between 1,250 and 2,000 stations at a total cost of four billion Deutsche marks (\$2.3 billion). (UPI)

Knapp rejects increased pay offer: The leader of Britain's main rail union on Tuesday rejected an increased pay offer for the state-run network's 100,000 workers.

British Rail (BR) raised its pay offer from eight to 8.5 per cent but Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railworkers, said it was unacceptable.

"It made it clear that 8.5 per cent was not acceptable and I was not prepared to recommend it to my union executive," Knapp said. "I am not optimistic at the moment — 8.5 per cent does not improve the chances of negotiated settlement." (Reuters)

EEC consents: Italy won European Economic Community approval on Tuesday for paying out state aid to a drastically slimmed-down steel industry, an EEC statement said in Brussels.

The community's assent set the seal on a compromise in a row over steel plant closures which nearly ended up in the European Court of Justice.

Italy had sought more lenient treatment, citing strong demand for its steel, while the commission insisted on reduced capacity as a condition for community aid. (Reuters)

Sir Granville dies: Sir Keith Granville, who organised the amalgamation of two airlines to form British Airways, died on Saturday at 79, his widow said on Tuesday.

Granville was chairman of the British Overseas Aircraft Corporation when it merged with British European Airways to become British Airways, and he bought Britain's first five Concorde, she said.

He also headed the International Air Traffic Association for a year. (Reuters)

Volvo to sell assets for Renault link-up

STOCKHOLM, April 11 (Reuters) — Swedish carmaker Volvo said yesterday it was planning to sell up to five billion crowns (\$820 million) of assets to fund its link-up with the state-owned French group Renault.

Spokesman Hans Renstrom said Volvo would probably sell off parts of its stock portfolio which includes investment companies such as AB Custos, and investment AB Cardo.

"We have earlier declared that we are ready to divest certain assets but we have no time plan," he said.

AB Volvo and Regie Nationale des Usines Renault announced in February they would swap and buy stock in each other to share research and development costs in a

deal which the Swedish company estimates could eventually save it one billion crowns (\$164 million) a year.

The link-up would make the two firms the world's biggest maker of heavy trucks, Europe's largest producer of buses and one of the world's largest manufacturers of cars.

Renstrom denied other press reports that up to 12 billion crowns (\$2 billion) of assets would be sold, and that some of the proceeds would also help finance another deal with Swedish state-controlled Procordia AB.

"The sales of four to five billion crowns worth of assets would only be to finance Renault. And we are not in a hurry. The price has to be right," he said.

US delegate Warren Lavorel told a state-of-play review session yesterday he was "cautiously optimistic" — "cautious because the negotiation train has finally left the station (but) cautious because there are some who want to continue to apply the brakes."

Co-ordinator in Washington for multilateral trade negotiations, Lavorel named no names but referred especially to EEC rejection of US demands that "outdated" community agricultural export subsidies be reduced and eliminated.

"In agriculture, despite our efforts, the negotiations are seriously lagging because an important player is dragging its feet," he said.

"In this area I agree with those who say that there will not be a successful outcome to the round without fundamental reform in agricultural trade."

Lavorel appeared to blame developing countries for "raising artificial procedural barriers" on greater protection for industrial patents and similar intellectual property, as well as for liberalisation in the area of services like banking and insurance.

Addressing all the other 105 participating countries, Lavorel said the negotiation is now getting down to the basic necessity — "the political will to give up some of your sovereignty over your trade policies in favour of multilateral disciplines and rules."

It was precisely such multilateral disciplines that are not being respected by the United States, the EEC charged in return.

The negotiations were launched in late 1976 and are faltering badly despite a scheduled conclusion deadline of December this year.

Ministers from around 25 key trading nations met in Mexico April 19 and 20 to try and decide on ways to break deadlocks on major issues like agriculture and

singled out at a current review meeting in Geneva.

Under the merger plan, nine shares of Mitsubishi Metal will equal 10 shares of Mitsubishi Mining and Cement effective Dec 1, the companies said in an announcement.

The merger will link one of Japan's largest smelters of nonferrous metals with one of its largest producers of cement.

"Every president of the two companies over the past 40 years sought out the possibility of a merger," said Mitsubishi Metal President Takeshi Nagano, who will become chairman of the new company.

"When this merger is complete, we will feel that the war is finally over for our companies," Nakayama said at a news conference jointly sponsored by the two firms.

The presidents of the two companies said the merger should not be seen as a "monopolistic threat."

By combining resources, the two firms will be able to grow into a comprehensive company, which is "the best way to conduct a flexible and dynamic adjustment to various structural changes progressing worldwide," Nakayama said.

Masaya Fujimaru, President of Mitsubishi Mining and Cement, who will be president of the new company, said the merger is not aimed at strengthening the business affiliations of the Mitsubishi Group, which is still known for its strong ties among member companies.

Airline signs \$4.4b deal

Workers buyout UAL

CHICAGO, April 11. (Reuters) — United Air Lines Corp yesterday signed an agreement to be bought for \$4.4 billion by a group of its unions, but analysts remain sceptical that the largest-ever US employee-led buyout would succeed.

The stock has languished far below the \$201-a-share of the employee group's bid, reflecting the widespread doubts. Yesterday, it finished up 25 cents to close at \$161.25 on the New York Stock Exchange.

"The stock reflects all the uncertainty surrounding the deal," said Kevin Neels of Charles River Associates. "Buyout proposals for UAL have fallen apart before."

The atmosphere for buyouts has been poisoned

by the failure of a number of deals and the collapse of the junk bond market, the source of much takeover funding in the past.

Under the agreement, each UAL share would be exchanged for \$155 in cash, \$35 worth of high-yield securities and \$11 worth of stock in Covia Corp, an airline reservations subsidiary.

But the group gave no new details on the financing and other mechanics of the deal as UAL signed the agreement.

The three unions — the pilots, flight attendants and machinists — have formed a company called United Employee Acquisition Corp to act as the vehicle for a buyout and UAL had agreed last Friday to the key points of the group's proposal.

Metal, Mining to merge

TOKYO, April 11. (AP) — Two members of the Mitsubishi Group created from the break-up of Mitsubishi mining during the US occupation after World War II announced yesterday that they will merge.

Mitsubishi Metal Corp. and Mitsubishi Mining and Cement Co., in announcing their merger, attempted to head off expected criticism that the move is a step toward re-establishment of the monopoly power held by Japan's pre-war "zaibatsu" financial combines.

The Mitsubishi Group companies comprised one of the three most powerful zaibatsu before and during World War II.

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Japan's reforms face uphill fight

Cutting US deficit

TOKYO, April 11. (AP) — Some of the government's promises to make the economy more accessible to US companies face an uphill fight, and officials say it is hard to estimate how much the reform will help trim a huge US trade deficit.

"In the long term, it will definitely positively affect our trade imbalance, but we are not sure of the amount of improvement," said Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy director of the America-Oceania division of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

In a report last week on US-Japanese negotiations, Japan promised to spend more money on public works, to reform business practices that limit competition, and to change tax law to make more commercial land available at lower prices. A final and more detailed report is due in July.

The government could run into resistance from the opposition socialists, owners of small businesses, and corporate groups that have cozy relationships.

"I don't know how long it will take before the effects begin to show up," said Noriko Hama of Mitsubishi Research Institute.

"A lot of political and administrative problems have to be cleared up. We are just standing at the front door," she added.

In recent years, Japan's sales in the United States have exceeded US sales in Japan by about \$50 billion a year.

Immediate promises include increased public works spending in the budget for the fiscal year that began April 1. The governing Liberal Democratic Party's majority in the lower house of parliament is enough to ensure it has its way in deciding the budget.

The promises also include easing of restrictions on opening new large-scale retail stores, tighter enforcement of anti-monopoly laws and a close inspection of preferential supply arrangements among groups of companies.

Some of the provisions on stores, however, would require approval by parliament. Even within that governing party, the issue is controversial, and the federal council of advisers and the federation council of prefectural governments will meet on Saturday to look into speeding up the reforms.

The situation allows us to predict that these will be very difficult, but necessary decisions," Gorbachev said. "We shall need the national agreement on this question."

"The President and the presidential council intend to adopt an early package of measures to give fresh impulse to economic transformations," Gorbachev said.

Hikes
He did not spell out exactly what measures would be taken besides saying "the basic steps initially planned for 1992 and 1993 should be taken instead this year and early next year." Those are the years vast price hikes were planned.

Gorbachev said he expected some opposition: at one point switching from Russian to Spanish battle cry to make his point.

"It is a paradox," he said. "At one time we are criticising the slow speed of the reform, indecisiveness and half-measures, and call for their speeding up. Then without learning about the suggestions for speeding up, we cry with enthusiasm, 'no pasaran' (they will not pass)."

In addition to more price increases, a total reform of the price structure is being planned to rationalise costs of production and the value of services and goods in the country that are now meaningless.

Rents in the Soviet Union, about \$18 a month have not been raised since 1928; bread, sugar and egg prices are the same as in 1954 and meat in state stores at \$1.50 a pound is the same price as in 1964. A ride on the metro is still 5 kopecks (8 cents), the same as in the last 60 years.

Structure
Food subsidies alone take 13 per cent of the budget, but beyond the losses to the government in subsidies the lack of a true price structure stifles any reforms to make state enterprises self-financing and move to a market economy.

At present falling state enterprises — 13 per cent of the total — are bailed out by the government in form of credits.

"Today the budget deficit has reached almost 10 per cent of the gross national product," this month's Economic Life newspaper said.

"We have lived not according to our means. For 1986-88, the revenues of the state budget grew only 6.3 billion roubles (\$10.2 billion) and its expenditures increased by 75 billion (\$126 billion)."

Wall Street sees future in trash

Waste services now hot stocks

NEW YORK, April 11. (Reuters) — The old English saying "where there's muck, there's brass" — dirty work makes money — is getting dusted off in the gleaming office towers of Wall Street.

The heart of American investment has seen the future, and believes it is in trash — or at least the handling and disposal of the stuff.

Companies that offer waste management services, from solid waste clean-ups to pollution control, are benefiting immensely from an environmentally conscious public, and could be the next hot investment, share analysts said.

Even as the US Congress debates more stringent clean air legislation, a number of investment firms are urging investors to buy environmental service stocks.

In early April Chicago-based Kemper Financial Inc launched the Kemper Environmental Services Fund, a mutual fund (unit trust) investing in firms expected to benefit from increasing governmental regulation and corporate spending on the environment. These include companies active in solid waste man-

agement and recycling.

The Bush administration has estimated that US industry changes to meet the tougher pollution standards would cost \$20 billion, but corporations and analysts predict the total will be much higher.

In its fund launch publicity, Kemper said the environmental services area may be "one of the fastest growing opportunities of the 1990s."

Apart from stiffer US laws safeguarding the environment, recycling of refuse has become increasingly popular.

Some companies, in an effort to respond to consumers concerns about the environment, are beginning to adapt packaging of products, including offering refillable items.

In addition, certain communities require that households separate their trash, allowing certain glass, paper and metal refuse to be picked up for recycling.

"Today, cleaning up the environment is big business," says Kemper financial portfolio

strategist James Neel.

Kemper estimates annual spending on the environment will soar to \$174 billion in 1995 from \$56 billion in 1989.

Fidelity Investments, another mutual fund operator, has had an environmental services mutual fund since last June. A Fidelity spokeswoman said the \$86 million fund has risen 13.6 per cent since its inception on June 29, 1989, and posted a 4.32 per cent rise in March after a 1.97 per cent return in February.

The uptrend in Fidelity's fund is consistent with analysts' views that investor interest in companies that provide environmental services has been growing.

Barry Mannis, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc said shares of environmental services firms which have been "flatish" in the past few months had picked up this spring.

"There's no question public concern about the environment is at an all-time high. That leads to regulation which creates a very profitable situation," Mannis said.

Speed up 'shock therapy' reforms

MOSCOW, April 11. (UPI) — With the Soviet budget spiralling out of control, President Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday two top government councils will meet on Saturday to work on speeding up radical economic reforms expected to include sharp price increases.

Last week, the Izvestia government newspaper revealed that national income declined for the first two months of 1990 by up to two per cent — the first negative growth ever registered in Soviet history — while peoples' money supply increased by 15 per cent.

The total budget deficit last year was 120 billion roubles (\$192 billion), and other figures released recently showed that the government in 1988 printed twice as much money as in 1987, with no corresponding increase in the goods and services available.

Because the rouble is not convertible, the budget deficit cannot be financed by foreigners buying into the economy as in the United States. The absence of a money market of stocks and bonds means the deficit cannot be financed internally.

Unsettled
Gorbachev told delegates to a congress of the young Communist League yesterday he wanted to speed up reforms to "improve the situation at the consumer market (and) do away, at least partially, with the deficit, which poisons the whole atmosphere of public life and unsettles people."

The reforms that are designed to eventually improve the consumer market, however, are expected in the short run to befall in drastically higher prices.

Newspapers all this month have spoken of an impending "shock therapy" to halt the printing presses and the hemorrhaging of worthless roubles to cover the budget deficit.

"Unprofitable enterprises will be closed and unemployment will increase fast," Tass said last week. "It is unclear whether the population will reconcile itself to such a shock therapy."

Gorbachev said his presidential council of advisers and the federation council of representatives from the nation's republics will meet on Saturday to look into speeding up the reforms.



PPC mark death anniversary

THE 11th death anniversary of the former prime minister and Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was observed here on 4th April 1990 in a befitting manner at the residence of Haj Qamar. Quran Khwani was held, large number club members attended, Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar president PPC highlighted the role of the late Bhutto in uplifting the poor and also raising the stature of Pakistan in the comity of world nations.

Rafiq Ahmed Mirza General Sec. PPC, Punnu Khan, Nazir Dogar, C.M. Ali Haj Qamar, Mohd Ali & Javed Ahmed were other members who highlighted the role of late Bhutto and present Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government's achievements in various fields.

Pictures show (top) PPC members with Dr Riaz and Mirza, (bottom) Dr Riaz highlighting the role of the late Bhutto.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 Mami Anisa and children: Local children programme
11.00 Children varieties
11.15 Cultural film
12.05 Religious Feature
12.15 A game show prepared by the Social Reform Society (part 3)
1.00 New Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Cultural serial
2.00 Kabool adventures: Cartoon serial
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 17)
3.10 Human health: Cultural programme (part 17)

3.35 Maraya: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Yaser Al Athman, Saleem Kalass and Maha Sabri
5.30 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
6.25 Mazenger: Cartoon serial
6.45 Baad Al Eftar: Religious programme presented by Bader Bu Resli
7.00 Madanat Al Ajayeb: Local children serial (part 17)
7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisement

8.15 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 17)
9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
10.00 News in Arabic

10.45 Lil Hayat Baqeya: Local serial (part 1), starring Suad Abdullah, Ayesha Ibrahim, Ali Al Mufeedi, Abdul Imam Abdullah
11.45 3 x 3: Local variety programme (part 17)
12.30 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (Final Part)
1.15 Al Fata Al Shareer: Arabic feature film, starring Noor Al Shareef, Noura, Ali Al Hajar and Mohammed Al Deffawi
3.00 News Summary
3.05 The World Today via Satellite
3.20 Holy Quran and Cutdown

FRIDAY

10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
10.15 Cartoons
10.30 Children Magazine: Local children programme, prepared by Amenu Khayri
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches
12.30 Al Zakat Programme: Religious programme, prepared by Kuwait Zakat House
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Alwan: Variety Programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon serial
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 18)
3.15 Human Health: Cultural Programme (part 18)
3.35 Maraya 88: Arabic serial
4.30 Rasael Al Ekha: Local programme (part 18)

4.45 Rafat Al Hajar: Arabic serial (part 18)
5.30 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
6.25 Mazenger: Cartoon serial
6.45 Baad Al Eftar: Religious programme presented by Bader Bu Resli
7.00 Madanat Al Ajayeb: Local children serial (part 18)
7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisement
8.15 The Family programme: Local programme
9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 2)
10.00 News in Arabic
10.45 Lil Hayat Baqeya: Local serial (part 2)
11.45 3x3: Local variety programme (part 18)
12.30 Layali Al Helmiya: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Yahya Al Fakhri, Safeya Al Omani and Salah Al Sadani
1.15 Black and White: Local variety programme, prepared and presented by Bader Bu Resli
2.15 News summary
2.20 The World Today via Satellite
2.55 Holy Quran and Cutdown

KTV 2

8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children
8.30 Mr. Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts, illusions and scientific experiments... training children on

how to use or deal with information...
9.00 News in English
9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
9.45 Beauty and the Beast: Dayan a new general prosecutor assistant, orders one of her men to take photos of all who attend Catherine's funeral particularly Vincent's God-father...
10.30 The Bill Cosby Show: Theo fails in his exam and his father teaches him the best way to revise his lessons!
11.00 Just for the Record: A trip in a forest by the host of the programme. A man who runs backwards... Gate sky... sharing or hair dressing by fire!
11.30 Feature film, "Dirty Dozen Next Mission": Starring Lee Marvin, Robert Ryan, Charles Bronson, Telly Savalas George Kennedy, Clint Walker... In 1944 twelve convicts serving life sentences are recruited for a commando suicide mission...
1.15 News in Brief
1.30 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Popeye and Son: A cartoon series for children
8.30 Eureka: How the typewriter was invented... a look at table tennis game.
9.00 News in English
9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of

Holy Ramadan
9.45 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait...
10.00 Islam in Focus: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
10.30 Globe TV: Spain Matadors. A trip to Spain... to the Soviet Union... at Turks islands, where 60 Japanese vessels sank during World War II.
11.15 Tales from the Dark-side: A telephone call recording machine helps a young man to get married.
11.45 Roseanne: Darlin Rosie's daughter is asked to read a poem on a cultural evening party.
12.15 Wiseguy: "Sins of the Father". Garbage war continues between Albert and Jeremiah. War is exploited for the sake of a candidate to New York City elections...
1.30 News in brief
1.30 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Imrak | 3.53 am |
| Fajr | 4.03 |
| Zuhr | 11.49 |
| Asr | 3.23 pm |
| Maghreb | 6.13 |
| Isha | 7.32 |

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Imrak | 3.52 am |
| Fajr | 4.02 |
| Zuhr | 11.49 |
| Asr | 3.23 pm |
| Maghreb | 6.14 |
| Isha | 7.33 |

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-oil 1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery, daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Hobby Centre
An exhibition of students work in jewellery, watercolour painting & pottery in the studio at the Tareq Rajab Museum on:

Thursday, April 12th from 9.30 am - 12 noon; 8 pm - 10.30 pm.
Friday, April 13th from 8 pm - 10.30 pm.

Kaleidoscope
A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music — including: Britten, Gershwin, Elgar, Copeland and Sandheim. Frances Coad - voice; Trevor Platt - piano. On April 18th at the British Embassy. For more information Tel. 5318060 ext 19, 8 am - 1 pm.

Bits n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Hyderabad
The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites entries in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait. A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Airline night

The airline staff launches its second annual get-together at Ramada Al Salam Hotel (Le-Mirage Grand ballroom) on Thursday the April 26, 1990. An evening with live music by top bands, fashion parade, etc. limited reservations. Please contact Celestino, tel. 2420631/2420661 or any staff on 5652073/2429277 (Cynthia).

Cine Club

Sunday, 15/4: "The Last Emperor" Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.
Tuesday, 17/4: "Sunshine," Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18/4: "Czech Cartoon Mutter and Cley Show." Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

Sunday, 22/4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure." Dir. by Steven Spielberg, screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America." Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

Cosmos Summer Nite
From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs into dawn dancing to the beats of Hurricane Alley & Next of Kin. Highlights of the evening: Cosmos Summer Nite special, table surprise, novelty dance, ballroom dance competition. Valuable gifts in store and not forgetting an exotic buffet of your choice. Please collect your invitations from undermentioned: Vincent Pinto, 4887140 or Dams D'Cruz, 5623621.

Anglican services
PAUL'S Church, Ahmadi Anglican services: Maundy Thursday, 8 pm, The Last Supper.

Good Friday, 2 pm The Cross of Christ, 7 pm United Service Easter Day, 8.30 am, Holy Communion; 11.30 am Lunchtime family service; 12.30 pm Lunchtime communion; 6.30 pm Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group; 7.30 - 8 pm Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents
The Dance is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

British Council

COAST to Coast. Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 April 6.00 pm. A genuinely funny comedy, this is one of the most talked about and fondly remembered British films of 1987, achieving the highest rating ever for a BBC feature. Lenny Henry, arguably Britain's finest comedian, in his first film role as Ritchie Lee, is perfect. There is the added bonus of 18 classic Tania Motown hits skillfully deployed by director Sandy Johnson.

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 5.30 pm.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him The Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

Passion Week

THE English language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services:

12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am. Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata." All are welcome.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a live Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes. There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

May Queen

Goan Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. For further details Tel: 4881387 or 5618971.

Entertainment City

Kuwait Entertainment City is running a free bus service from Kuwait City to the Entertainment city and back on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month of Ramadan. The bus starts on both days from opposite the Meridian Hotel at 8.00 pm and returns back from the Entertainment City to the same stop at 12.00 midnight.

Career and Vocational Guidance

Goan Welfare Society will conduct a seminar on Career and Vocational Guidance on April 20, 1990 at 5 pm, at the Indian Embassy auditorium. All Goan students from standard IX, X, XI are invited to attend along with their parents. Professionals will speak on specialised topics such as engineering, architecture, interior design, computer science, hotel management, banking and medicine. For further information please contact Bras Silveira on tel. 4849006 or Rudolph Fernandes tel. 2438011.

Holy Week 1990

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concealed Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00pm, Adoration (English — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.99 pm, celebration of the Lord's Pas-

sion (English); 5.30 pm, celebration of the Lord's Passing (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

PAC veterans' committee
Pakistan Arts Circle veterans are reorganising the PAC to revive its tradition of presenting colourful cultural programme for the benefit of the Pakistani community. The PAC veterans held a "Musical Nite" last month which manifests the future aspirations of the PAC Veterans.

The organising committee, named to revamp the PAC and launch a membership campaign, has invited the Pakistani community to join the PAC. The committee includes: Abdul Sattar Qureshi (PAC founder member); Qazi Abdus Rauf (PAC Veteran); Abdul Sattar Ghazali (PAC Veteran); Sheikh Mehmoed Ali Qidwai (PAC Veteran); Chaudhry Ahmad Khan (bank officer); Nasrullah Khan (business executive); and Zahid Butt (businessman).

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel
LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate Iftar buffet with traditional specialties of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Suhour until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING

Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008/8000.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco & Regina. **COFFEE SHOP**: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazzia, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am. **LOBBY**: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejls plays in the lobby diwanaya after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohaur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful suhour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD.6.00 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. **SUHOOR**: Eat as much as you can for KD2.00. **LOBBY CAFE**: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus month-long watering pastries. **BABYLON GARDENS**: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Cold Steel
Al Sahmyah
Good Morning Vietnam
Al Hamra
Topline
Drive-In
Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdous
Aakhri Gulam
Fahaeel Open
Aakhri Baazi
Fahaeel
Shahi Khandan
Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Shock Troop
Sulaibikhat
Chithram
Jeeb
Shankar Dada
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

FRIDAY
Al Andulus
Cold Steel
Al Sahmyah
Good Morning Vietnam
Al Hamra
Topline
Drive-In
Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdous
Aakhri Gulam
Fahaeel Open
Aakhri Baazi
Fahaeel
Shahi Khandan
Al Jahra
One Man Force
Granada
Lost Idol
Sulaibikhat
Scroged
Jeeb
Suraj
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

HAPPY EASTER!

Enjoy the whole range of chocolate Easter Bunnies and eggs great gift baskets from the Coffee Shop. (open daily from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm for take aways) Don't forget to reserve your table for a fabulous Easter Dinner on the 15th of April.

Celebrate Spring!!

AT THE

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تنبي

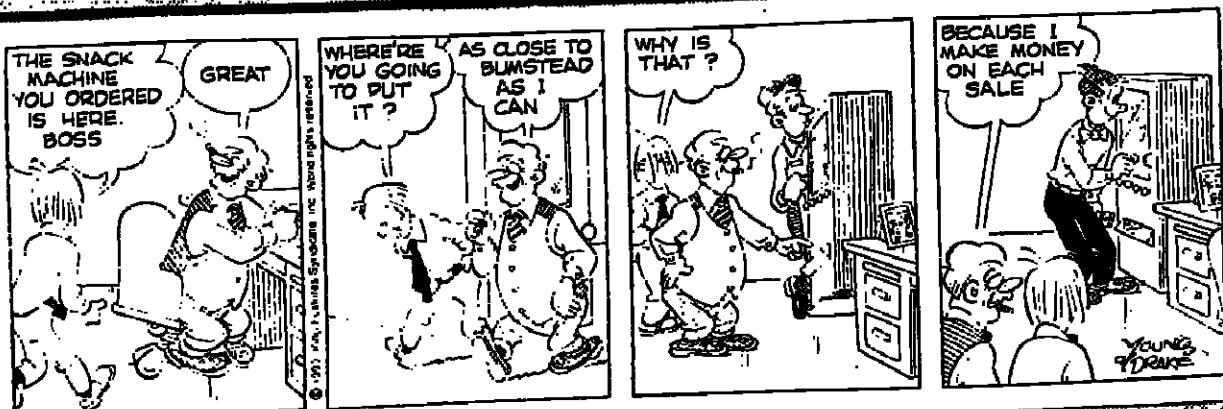
Tenby

تنبي

MADE IN ENGLAND

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



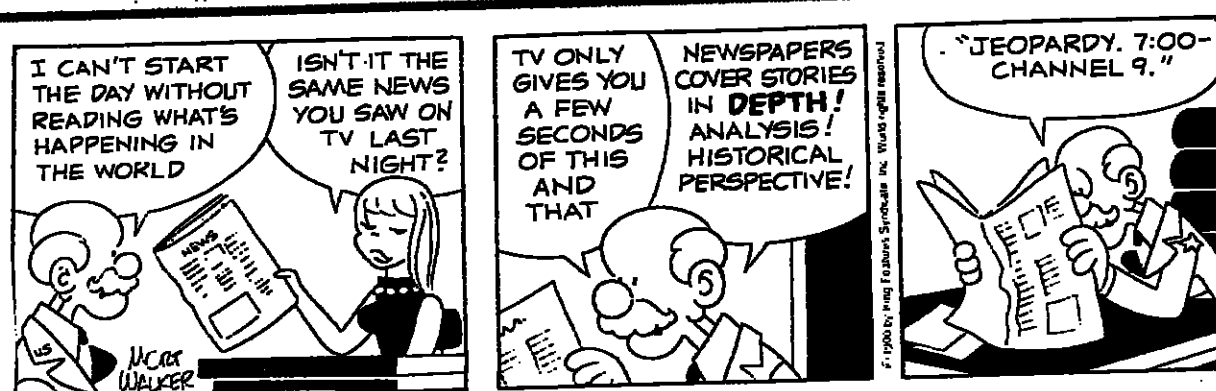
NAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dick Browne



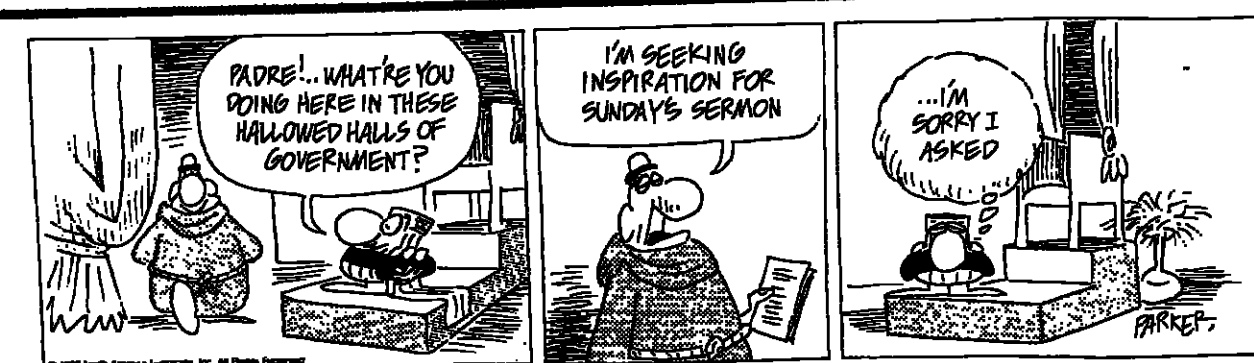
AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



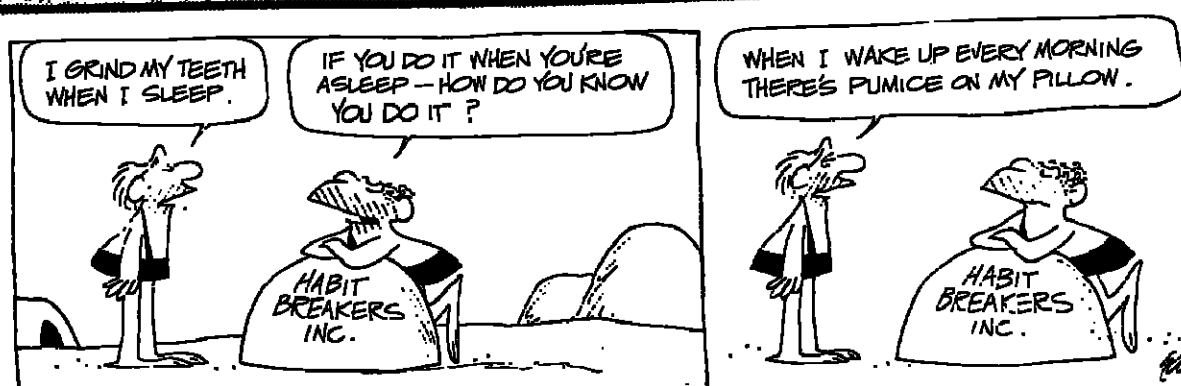
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



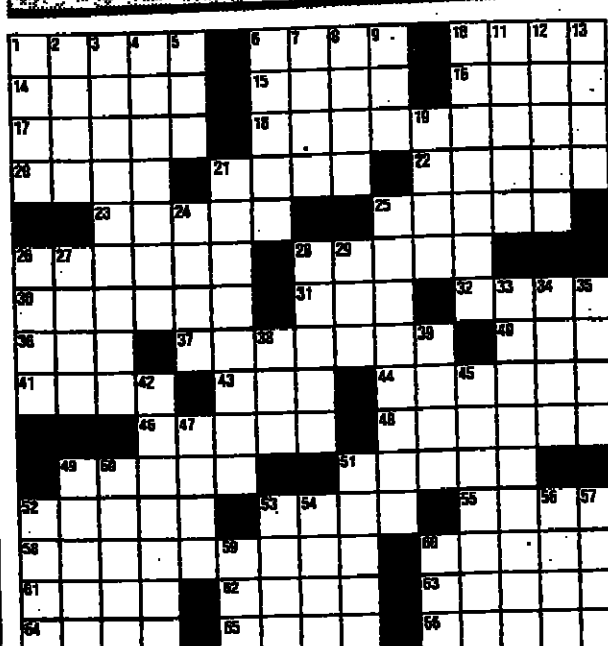
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forster & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Mary of "The Matinee Falcon"
 - 6 Goods, for short
 - 10 Ladd who played "Shane"
 - 14 Greek letter
 - 15 A Chaplin
 - 16 Greedy one's word
 - 17 Like some love scenes
 - 18 Olivier Roman Empire film
 - 20 Kitchen ending
 - 21 Fictional Unah
 - 22 Film greats, to some
 - 23 Ballet bends
 - 25 Ganders' mates
 - 26 Marsh birds
 - 28 Hidden
 - 30 Bright arcs
 - 31 Meuna —
 - 32 — of the earth
 - 36 Guadalajara gold
 - 37 Carmen, of films
 - 40 Negative conjunction
 - 41 Creepers
 - 43 Letters, for beginners
 - 44 Perilous
 - 46 TV role for Herschel Bernardi
 - 48 "— Fidelity"
 - 49 Shield parts
 - 51 "Off to a flying —"
 - 52 Be coquettish
 - 53 Libertine
 - 55 Covenant
 - 58 Diane Keaton
 - 60 Walkway
 - 61 Joan Crawford
 - 62 Casplan Sea feeder
- DOWN**
- 1 "When My Baby Smiles —"
 - 2 Close
 - 3 Gable-Loy flying film
 - 4 Welles
 - 5 Actor Bolger
 - 6 Lancaster
 - 7 Info
 - 8 Break suddenly
 - 9 Attention
 - 10 1984 Oscar winning film
 - 11 Parts of RR trains
 - 12 As — (generally)
 - 13 Monster's loch
 - 18 Connected
 - 21 Some Germans
 - 24 Particular
 - 25 Hoffman-
 - 26 Filmed
 - 27 Edible root
 - 28 Come in second
 - 29 Long, long time
 - 33 1956 Bergman picture
 - 34 Attic
 - 35 Corner
 - 38 Baseball abbr.
 - 39 Time — half
 - 42 Bogart-Heppburn film
 - 45 Al Pacino movie: 1973
 - 47 Learn by —
 - 48 Forsarm bones
 - 50 Some skirts
 - 51 Dirty
 - 52 Orwell —
 - 53 Uncommon
 - 54 Luise Rainer role
 - 56 Horse's hoof beat
 - 57 Folding money
 - 59 Newman-Neal
 - 1963 movie
 - 60 Stubborn one

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ANTIDOTE TISAR EITH
TALON IPSE ALIAE
AIDOW CRITICISM
DENNIS ISATIRAMP
SATILLING RHIO
NEMO USAGE
SOFTISPOIT INSULT
AMAH ENACT TROT
VENIENR MISSHAPE
ENEMY TIESE
DOO CELERIES
SCOUTCAR FLOATS
LAISTSTRAW LAURA
EITH ENNA ARDOR
DIE TIOED EDEMA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

REJECT THE LOSING LINE

The play was something else. The diamond opening lead went to the nine, ten and ace. Declarer cashed the ace and king of trumps, then ran the jack of hearts, losing to the king. The defenders banked their two diamond tricks and shifted to a club, taken by the ace. Declarer cashed all the trumps, but West clung stubbornly to all his hearts and declarer could scramble no more than nine tricks.

NORTH
♠ A J 9
♥ A Q 5 3
♦ J 9 3
♣ A 7 5

WEST
♠ 8 5
♥ 10 8 6 2
♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ K J 4

EAST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ K 9 7
♦ K 10 8 3
♣ K 10 8 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 3 2
♥ J 4
♦ A 6 5
♣ 9 6 2

The bidding:
North: 1 NT
South: 3 ♠
West: 4 ♠
Opening lead: Two of ♦

If an available line won't yield the tricks you need, it is feckless to even contemplate it. Just counting your tricks often can be enough to stop you from going astray.

Since neither defender held a five-card suit, which could have jeopardized nine tricks at *sans about*, three no trump would have been simpler than four spades. However, neither North nor South did anything wrong in the auction.

Had declarer paused to count his tricks, he might have found the right way to tackle the hand. South had seven fast tricks, and, therefore, needed three tricks from hearts to make his contract. Even a winning heart finesse would have yielded no more than nine tricks as long as West covered the jack, so another line had to be found.

The French have a name for it: *instead of the normal heart finesse, or impasse*, declarer should have won the second trump on the table and led a heart toward the jack, or *expasse*. If East rises with the king, declarer has his three tricks in the suit. If East follows low, and the jack wins declarer must continue with a heart to the ace and then ruff a heart, hoping to fell the king. When that succeeds, the queen of hearts becomes the 10th trick.



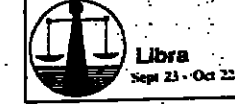
YOUR STARS



You will be rather reluctant to do what has to be done. However, by pulling yourself together, you will be able to overcome this tendency. Do not place too much reliance on guesswork. Be truthful.



You should avoid overruling yourself but nor should you slacken your efforts. Are you sure you are eating enough fruit and vegetables? Take care not to reveal anything told to you in confidence. Be frank.



You will tend to be invaded by gloomy thoughts and should try to dispel them. Do not spend money in the expectation of a windfall. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 32. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Be hopeful.



You will see the advantages of a new device but do not think you can use it without learning how to. On the one hand you are fable to be suspicious, on the other hand a little too trusting. Instead you should seek to restrain both trends. Be consistent.



There is a tendency to mislay things which should be dealt with right away. You will tend to underestimate a bill and should leave yourself with enough in hand to pay the difference. If you try to get your own back you will only make matters worse. Be correct.



You are liable to act on impulse and should try to restrain yourself. Something you should have done and thought you did do will not have been done. You will have to act quickly to avoid embarrassing consequences. Be magnanimous.



You will have the wind in your sails but you must trim the direction in which you are heading slightly. If you think you know all the answers that is even more reason why you do not. You are all too easily distracted and should use all the will power you can summon. Be reliable.



You will feel somewhat better than you have done of late but you must still ensure you take precautions against infection. You should suggest a course of action but you should not try to force it upon others. And listen to what others are saying. Be sensible.



You will be faced with a rather difficult decision. Think hard, seek advice, but do not try to sit on the fence. Make sure you do not incur too high an expenditure. Be punctual.



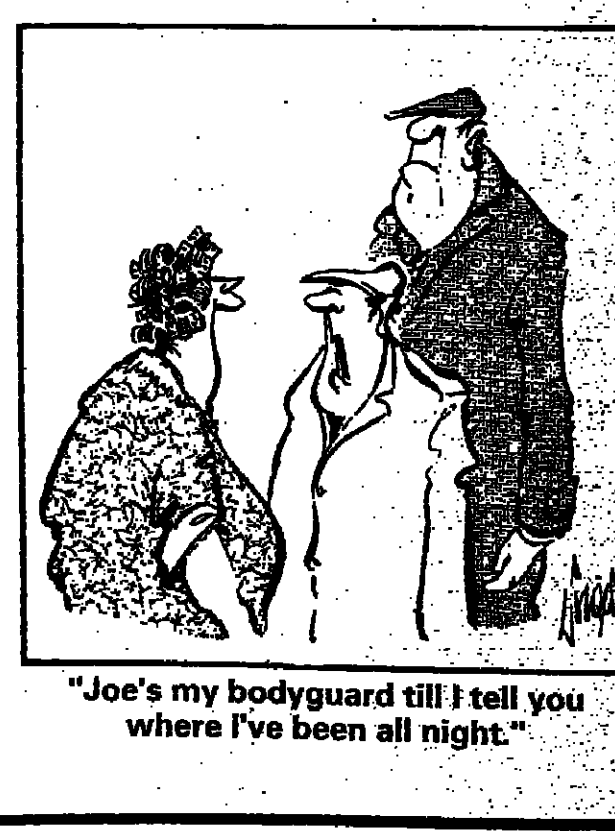
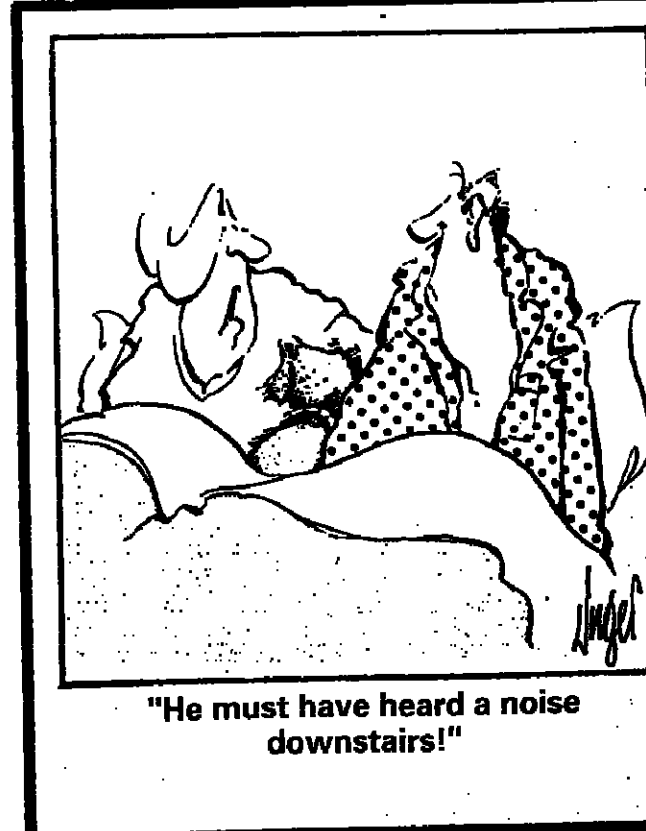
You should not place too much trust in your intuitions. A friend you have done a favour will much appreciate it. Try to avoid thinking about what still remains to be done, just concentrate on doing it. Be fair.



Try to avoid getting into an argument and cut it short if you do. You are easily bored and should do everything you can to stimulate your interest. Do not attempt to do too many things at one and the same time. Be tolerant.



Something you had not realized before now will suddenly strike home to you. You will receive a letter that will cause you a bit of heartache. However, if you treat it calmly you will be able to minimize the disruption. Avoid allowing work to invade your leisure.



Indian Film

Showbiz world is abuzz again....

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Special correspondent

AFTER a spell of depression, Bombay's showbiz world is up on its feet again. New projects are being planned, new people are investing money, new talents are getting launched. The old guard has also geared up for some exciting activities. And all these are being amply promoted through *muhurats* (launching functions) and the inevitable cocktail parties.

Surprisingly, this is happening even for TV serials. The *Mudra* people who made the earliest forays in imported TV programmes and video-made films have come up with the serial *Tenali Rama*. It is like the Akbar-Birbal version of a south Indian priest and king, laced with witty stories. A party was held at Taj to show some episodes and introduce the actors to the press.

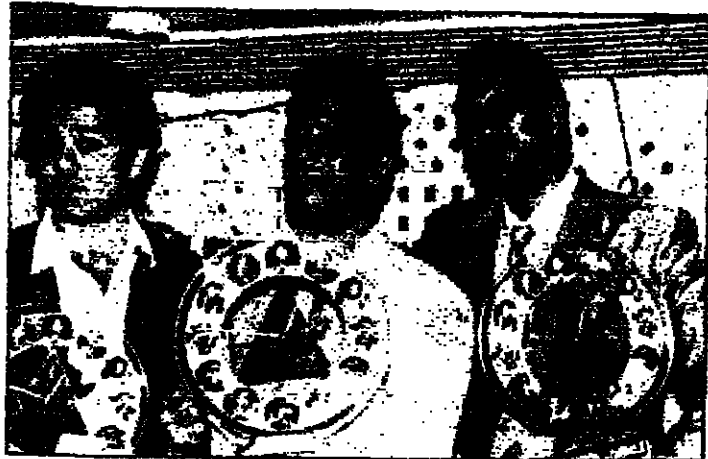
Hogging the limelight were cartoonist R.K. Laxman (who did sketches) and his wife Kamla Laxman the novelist (who wrote the TV scripts). Vijaya Kishyap, famous for his comic Bengali's role in *Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi* plays *Tenali*. The producer T.S. Narasimhan and the director T.S. Nagabhana are from Bangalore and have won awards for Kannada films as well as *Malgudi Days*.

Prakash Varma, with one foot in India and one abroad, had dabbled with production some time ago. He is back with *Princess From Kathmandu*, celebration of the Indo-UK co-pro being aptly held in Sea Princess hotel. It's a James Bond kind of thriller with a fresh pair featuring Arjun Gaur, an NRI working as a professional doctor in UK.

His cool handsome looks made Prakash see hero material in him and he is now as serious about acting as his other pursuits. We asked him if he is fluent in Hindi. "Yes," he said. He is from Kanpur (U.P.) and could get back the language whenever he wanted.

What surprised us was the heroine Naveeda Mehdi, a bubbly nubile beauty studying in 12th Standard, junior college of arts. She refused to give a detailed interview till her exams were over. But her optimism showed. "My name itself means good news and I will bring it for this film and everyone in it," said the lass who was the runner-up for Miss India title. Dressed in a tight leggy skirt and elaborately crowned hair-do Naveeda went up on the stage with Arjun, joined by good old Prem Chopra in a cowboy hat amidst claps for the *muhurat*. Seven recorded songs provided the background score during the party.

Those with big hits last year,



Old trio Sunny, Naseer and Jackie in *Tridev*



New trio Chunky, Naseer and Sunny stars of *Vishwatma*

and rolling in wealth, once again became active. Rajiv Rai, fresh from the unexpected success of *Tridev* started yet another triple hero saga *Vishwatma*. After speculation about the cast, Rai opted to repeat Sunny and Naseeruddin but took Chunky instead of Jackie. As for the girls, Sonam has already become his official future wife. So she has to be there. But to cut down all star competition against her, Rai has taken actresses Jyotsna Singh and Divya Bharti (the same Divya found and dropped by Govinda brother).

Vishwatma was launched amid razzle-dazzle although papa Gulshan Rai could not attend due to tax raid and by ill-health. Ah, what is so much money for? The film has a big budget and cast, while the *Oye, Oye* creator Viju Shah has been made a full-fledged composer. Rai humbly invited Yash Chopra to direct the first shot. Yash, brother of B.R., has just revelled in the success of *Chandni* after ten years of flops.

So Yash held his own bash to celebrate the jubilee of *Chandni* and start a new film. In keeping with the white "moonlight" image, the invitation card requested everyone to come dressed in white. Many did oblige like



A new actress? Boy George, no. This is that fine actor Naseeruddin Shah, who a la Tootsie, dons the swimming suit to make waves in his forthcoming film entitled *Tanhaika!* The film also stars Aditya Pancholi and Javed Jaffri.



Poonam and husband set their van rolling with Anil and Sri Devi.

Anupam Kher, Lata, Vinod Khanna, Jeetendra, Rishi, Sunny, Juhi and composers Shiv-Hari. But others had all dark wardrobes. Anyway, the star attraction Sri Devi came in a colourful Lucknowi dress. The joy of being Number One was evident in the ample smiles she threw to the flash-bulbs. For the *muhurat* shot, Sri did a gypsy dance to a desert folk song sung by Ila Arun in her falsetto voice.

That was the auspicious shot of *Lamhen* (rare moments), another love story with the heroine in a double role. Yash forgetting old loyalties has switched over to Anil Kapoor. Was that why the *Chandni* heroes Rishi Kapoor and Vinod Khanna came to collect their trophies but soon vanished from the party? Perhaps, it was their way of showing resentment. In showbiz, it is very rare to be sporting. Madhuri and Sangeeta too were missing from the post-*Tridev*

hoo-haa of *Vishwatma*. There were other small ceremonies to

release poetry books, like *Zunoon* by comedian Mukhi's



Sri Devi and Rishi: *Chandni* pair going separate ways

daughter Naseem.

Poonam Dhillon Thakera paved the path for married and retired actresses to become active businesswomen. Poonam got the brain-wave of a luxury van-for-hire for stars, (at the cost of the producers). It is a silvery vehicle. Poonam has named it *Vanity*. It contains two air-conditioned make-up rooms, with all amenities like video, TV, dining table and even comfy beds. The hire charges are Rs2,000 (about KD35) for eight hours. It is meant for outdoor shooting, especially for actresses, but don't be surprised if male stars insist on parking it in the studio compounds day and night.

The Thakera couple held an inaugural function with Sri Devi and Anil Kapoor as their first clients. Once these two give the lead, *Vanity* is sure to be in big demand. Several film folks attend the little party. Poonam said that she had spent ten lakhs of rupees on designing and decoration. But she hopes to make it paying venture. Producers like Boney Kapoor have already booked the van. So Poonam has decided to put two more on the roads.

The belated celebration of romance against violence sparked off by *Maine Pyar Kiya* and *Chandni*, recurs in various love stories that are being launched, including *Sahihaan* to be directed by Ramesh Talwar for D.K. Chawla with Rishi Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit and Sunjay Dutt.

The triangle was launched with a formal *muhurat* at Mehboob Studio followed by a cocktail-dinner party at Centaur the same night. The music is by Shiv Hari of *Chandni*, a pair who may go a long way, now that good old couple Laxmikant and Pyarelal are threatening to split-up after 30 years.



Arjun Gaur plays the lead in *Princess from Kathmandu*

Behind the screen

● Rekha's marriage disappointed many hopefuls. But the strangest is a British Labour MP called Keith Vaz. The parliamentarian said he had met the actress at Leicester and almost decided to propose to her. Now of course he has only best wishes for her.

● Director N. Chandra's ego has bloated with success that he has begun insulting people left and right. He snubs his cameraman, assistant directors and other unit hands loudly and crudely. Six of them have already left him. Now, he has only to do it with a star and see how it boomerangs. The insulted unit men have planned to get star support to pull up Chandra.

● Amitabh is desperate: he will do anything to click... even go back on his convictions. The weird voice in *Agneepath* was meant to mimic and parody a real-life mafia don of Bombay's underworld. But the crime chief did not like it and ordered his industry friends to get it changed. So Amit came back to Bombay and re-dubbed the whole film in his original voice. His theatre friend Manoj Desai wanted to give the new version a grand gala opening. But the public reaction is: film to wohi hai na, (it's the same film).

● Shatrughan Sinha wearing a fur cap like Prime Minister V.P. Singh was taunted for copying the chief and showing his loyalty to the new party. Undaunted Shatrughan shot back that he always wore such caps for years. He quoted his old films like *Aadmi Sadak Ka*. It's lucky he did not conclude that it was the PM who had been copying him recently.

● Salman Khan, the new star, is growing too big for his boots. After his brief role in *Biwi Ho To Aisi*, he had signed some films after begging the producers. But now he is shutting the door on the same helpful chaps. He wants to revise contracts according to his new rates and replace heroines. There is only one escape route. If a producer signs his papa Salim to write the film, he makes some concessions. Then it will be all in the family.

● *Chandni* and love stories in general may receive a blow from the fact that the film's Telugu dubbed version has not done well at the box. Producer Subhram Reddy wonders where he went wrong. For one thing he should not have called the film *Sri Devi*. That is mixing up the star with the character. And films with star names have never run, even in the past, like *Madhubala*.

Star slips

Aamir Khan: "I would love working with Sri Devi and Dimple. I am their big fan. But on one condition. I should have an equally important role to play."

Shabana Azmi: "In the last two years, I have virtually made no money because I did only art films. People get angry when I do films like *Rakhwala*. I am the only actress who is not supposed to make money."

Kim: "I had a couple of relationships (before I decided on marriage.) But each time something went wrong. Things didn't work out. I am honest. I don't disown my relationships in public and enjoy myself on the sly."

Shatrughan Sinha: I admire Amitabh as an actor. But he is certainly not cut out for politics. He is only cut out for cut-outs.

Chunky: "I have a hobby of flirting around with girls. But they are not my main weakness. Yes, my friendships with them are thicker and longer."

Mammootty: 'Superstar?..... I don't know'

Super M's super success in Malayalam cinema

"TYPICAL day in my life?" ponders Mammootty, lighting a beedi and relaxing in his chair in a Trivandrum hotel. He looks exceptionally fresh and well-groomed, dressed into a spotless white *mundu* and bush shirt. "Well take today. I got up just an hour ago. That was," he looks at his watch and laughs. "1.30 p.m., lunch time!"

But, he had gone to bed at 5.30 a.m., having driven overnight from Madras. Could he really call this a typical day? Mammootty, Malayalam superstar with over 200 films under his belt and a dozen more at least in the offing next year in Malayalam, Tamil and maybe even Hindi, looks genuinely surprised when he says he no longer knows what a typical day in his life is like.

"Maybe this is not a typical day," he says, "but then, very often, when I am in Madras or Trivandrum, I can't keep regular hours. In these two places I have to do dubbing for one film, shooting for another, patchwork for several more. Then there are night scenes to shoot. The days are so strenuous that I have no time to think of day or night."

A very changed life-style indeed, for a man who, just ten years ago, was trying to make a living as a lawyer in Manjeri in north Kerala. Born to an agriculturist in Kottayam district, Mohammed Kutty (his college friends transformed his name to Mammootty as it was easier on the tongue) grew up speaking Malayalam and Tamil and hero-worshipping the Tamil stars of his time, MGR and Sivaji Ganesan. Although he was always an ardent film buff, he never seriously thought of joining films until he went to college in Cochin.

"In college, I really opened

up," Mammootty says. "I was the leader of the drama group. I also acted for a semi-professional troupe, did mimicry, fought college elections. By then I was Mammootty and my real name was pushed into brackets even on the college notice board! I gradually became a film enthusiast, and would never miss a festival. Though I trained to be a lawyer there was this latent desire in me to be an actor. I tried my best to meet film personalities, hoping for a break."

In 1978, his friends introduced him to the well-known writer, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, at a film festival. And so, he got his offer for his first film role, "The film

Mammootty had married Zul-fat six days before he started his first film. "She married a lawyer," he chuckles, "but now has to live with an actor." They have two children. His daughter Sumi is eight and son Zulkhar Salman six.

"In the early stages of my career I used to spend a lot of time with Zulfat, now I have to steal time to be with her and my kids," says Mammootty.

Does this worry him... the inability to spend more time with his family... "I have just one life and I have to share it with both—my career and my family," he says. "My life-style had to change once I became an actor

Even in ordinary films he had managed to impress film-makers of his calibre. Director K.G. George, his mentor, continued to use him in all his films, and to Mammootty's credit, he never refused a George film, even if he had a small insubstantial role like the one in *Adam's Rib*. In George's Lekha's *Death*... role he says he modelled on his childhood hero Sivaji Ganesan and, of course, the evergreen Malayalam star, Prem Nazir.

By the late eighties, Mammootty had acted in films made by every well-known film-

was on his way to superstardom. Until a couple of years ago, the actor shone alone in solitary splendour until a younger, more tempestuous superstar came whizzing in... Mohanlal.

"Superstar?" Mammootty says. "I don't know, maybe audiences prefer us to some other stars. But we don't do stupid things superstars are supposed to do. You see, our Malayalam film industry is different. We work in a democratic way. I, for instance, don't have any secretary. I fix my own appointments. I do my own public relations. If I accept a film, everyone concerned sits down and discusses the script. We don't accept more than we can

attach any importance to stardom. It only ensures saleability and so you get better roles."

"Even after all these years, I don't think I am financially stable. Tomorrow, if I don't put on make-up I'll be in trouble."

"As an actor I feel I have to achieve a lot more I guess... when an actor loses that urge, he diminishes as an actor. But right now, I am in a wonderful position when I can choose my roles. For this, I must thank my stardom."

Having straddled the Malayalam silver screen for nearly a decade now, Mammootty is on the look out for new pastures. Cashing in on the

Mammootty is a household name in Kerala; his flashing smile sets female hearts aflutter in Kerala. A lawyer with a latent desire to be an actor, the Kerala actor has this year capped his success with the 1990 Best Actor National Award.

was *Devalokam*," Mammootty reminisces. "And we started shooting on May 13, 1979. After six or seven days, the project was shelved. My next role was also offered by Mr Vasudevan Nair. It was a fairly good one, though I had only six or seven scenes. Around that time, I met the actor, Sreenivasan. He introduced me to K.G. George, the director, who cast me in his film *Meela*. The film was a flop. But I was noticed. And that was the beginning."

Mammootty was twenty-seven then. A dark, well-built young man with a flashing smile, which set female hearts aflutter all over Kerala.

and achieved fame. And for fame, a man has to mortgage his freedom. Circumstances force certain changes on you. People treat stars differently. They create the distance. I don't know if I can go back to being a lawyer now, even though I was happy with my life as it was. Because now people think of me only, as an actor. If I stand up to argue in court, they might think I'm acting! In the beginning Mammootty was not too choosy about his roles. He took anything which came his way... small roles and big ones. By the mid 1980s, he was working at the rate of 30 films a year. Fortunately for him, Mammootty didn't get into a rut,

maker. His roles ranged from the romantic to the villainous, from the urban sophisticate to the rustic comedian. He was brilliant as Krishnamurthy, the journalist-turned-avenger in *New Delhi Times*, and as a man driven to madness by rural society in Sibi Malayil's *Thaniyavanam*. In Bharathan's *Upasana* he played a young man who rapes his sister's friend in the car one rainy evening... and then woos her back with every romantic device ever coined. Barring the feminists, who protested against this glib portrayal of rape, Mammootty's female fans at whom this and other similar films were aimed, just loved it. Mammootty

cope with. And once we accept a project, we are very discipline about shooting schedules."

How then does he account for the high price he and Mohanlal command? Theatians like Satyan and Prem Nazir could never dream of such money even after decades in the film industry. Why do producers fall over each other to launch projects if either of them just gives a nod. Never mind the cost?

"Those are just rumours," Mammootty says. "Of course, we do get better money, but you can blame this on inflation. Still, we don't get anything like the superstars in Hindi or even Tamil cinema do. Actually, I don't

popularity of his films in Tamil Nadu ("I can go shopping in peace in Cochin, but not in Madras," he says with a chuckle), he is acting in two Tamil films, *Mounam Sammadam* (Silence is consent) and an untitled film to be directed by Fazil. In both these films he plays a Tamilian and he plans to speak his lines himself.

His most cherished ambition at the moment is to make a Hindi film. "There have been offers," he confides, "but I don't want to make the mistake Kamal Haasan made." In his first Hindi film he was a Tamilian and all his roles afterwards followed this pattern. I can speak Hindi, I'd like to be



Mammootty. I am never satisfied with any of my roles. I remember them all... the pains, the tensions, the setbacks.

accepted as a regular actor in mainstream Hindi cinema." Recently he rejected the idea of remaking one of his latest Malayalam hits *Nair Saab* in Hindi, probably for the same reason. "I am told Amitabh Bachchan praised my work in *Nair Saab*," he says. "In fact he wanted to do the Hindi remake, but changed his mind because of his asthma which rules out his shooting for long stretches in Kashmir, where the film is set."

Mammootty is trying to work out a project with BR Films, maybe a remake of his hit *August 1*, an adaptation of *The Day of The Jackal*. Or perhaps a film based on the kidnapping of Dr Rubaiyya Sayeed, to be made in Malayalam and Hindi.

Mammootty's quest for new "different" roles has led him to play the lead role in I.V. Sasi's *Mrigayya*, released last December. With blackened teeth and

unkempt hair, he looked a far cry from the usual suave character he is so fond of portraying. Another talked about film is *Adoor Gopalakrishnan's Mathilukal* in which he plays a writer (Vaikom Mohammed Basheer), who is imprisoned for his political views and falls love with an unseen woman inside the prison.

What about co-stars? Mammootty feels that at the moment there are no good actresses in Malayalam cinema. "It's not as if we don't have enough talented women. And it's not true any more that women are afraid to enter the industry. Why, they are looked after so well and they earn a lot. When they talk of women's liberation, when they readily join the army and even become pilots, why should they be afraid to act in films?"

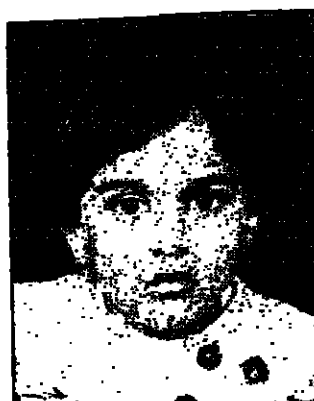
Gita Aravamudan
Courtesy: Filmfare.

JUNIOR TIMES

Happy birthday



Amin Ghulam Ali Allana recently held a party to celebrate his birthday. The picture shows Amin rejoicing with his sister Yasmin.



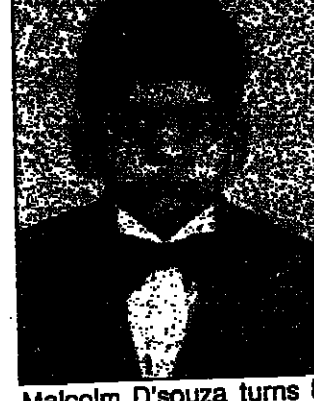
Sharima Alphonso turns 4 on April 14



Arsaed Anwar on April 12



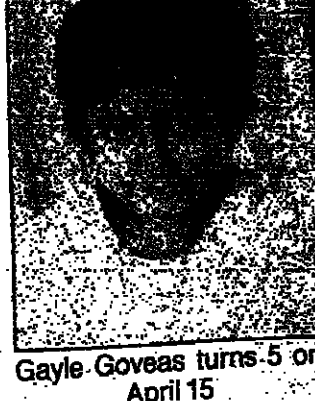
Khuram Shahbaz on April 13



Malcolm D'souza turns 8 on April 12



Viveta Monteiro turns 6 on April 14



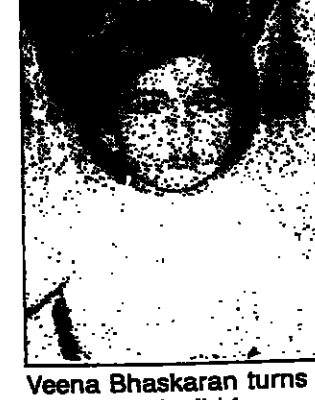
Gayle Goveas turns 5 on April 15



David Fernandes turns 10 on April 13



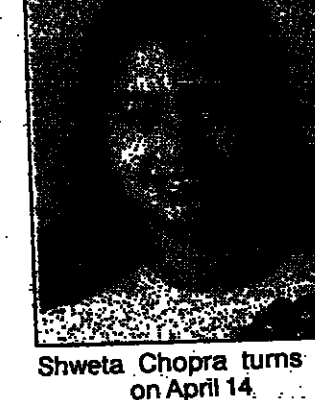
Susan D'Souza turns 6 on April 16



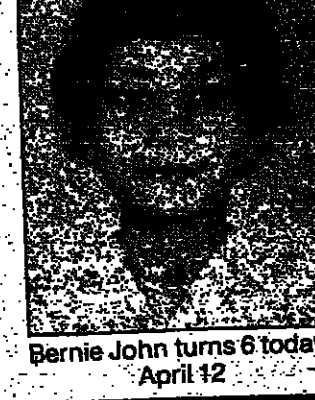
Veena Bhaskaran turns 2 on April 14



Fardous Habib turns 9 today April 12



Shweta Chopra turns 11 on April 14



Bernie John turns 6 today April 12

Questions you'd like to ask

How can I change the way I feel?

Sometimes it's hard. Often you can change the way you feel by thinking differently. You may feel sad when your parents go out and leave you with a babysitter. You'll probably feel better when you remember that this particular babysitter knows how to do magic tricks and tells great bedtime stories. Sometimes a change of activity can change the way you feel. When you act happy, you're more likely to feel happy.



Thoughts

The time has passed long ago
Loneliness stayed
When did we meet last
We don't seem to know
Has it been that long?
Perhaps, we should freeze time,
make it still, unmovable.
We can meet then, again
Maybe cry a little and smile,
make the moments wait for us,
tell the time to hold on a while.
There is a lot to be said,
and a lot more to be heard.

I wish you'd be here, with me, close by
Oh! How scary is this solitude.
Let us be together again,
walk together near our memories,
so when the time leaves us behind,
we won't be so alone again....

By Rayat Kapoor.

Shortcrust pastry

must all be kept as cool as possible. Start by washing your hands in cold water.

1. Sift flour and salt into mixing bowl. Add margarine and lard and coat these pieces of fat in flour. Cut them up into small pieces with a knife.
2. Rub fat into flour, using fingertips, until mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. (Do not rub fat into flour for too long or the fat will begin to melt and your pastry will be difficult to handle).

3. Add exactly 1 table spoonful of cold water to flour mixture and mix with a knife. Gently gather the mixture together with your hands to make a firm dough. The sides of the mixing bowl should be clean and the dough should not be sticky.

4. Leave pastry in a cool place until required. This recipe is the basic recipe for shortcrust pastry, and can be used to make many things.

INGREDIENTS

200g (8 oz) plain flour
30g (2 oz) lard
50g (2 oz) margarine
Pinch of salt
2 1/2 table spoonfuls cold water

EQUIPMENT

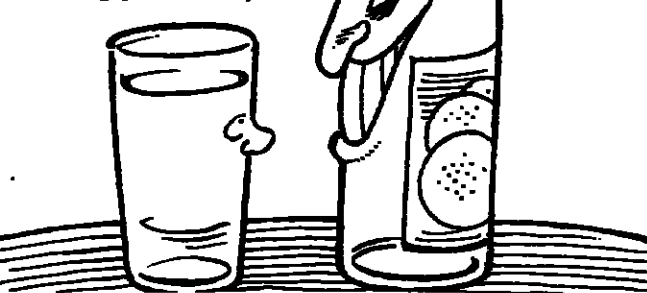
Sieve
Mixing bowl
Table knife
Tablespoon

When making pastry, your hands, the ingredients, and your equipment



WHAT DID THE ORANGE SQUASH SAY TO THE GLASS OF WATER?

DILUTED TO MEET YOU!



Join the dots



Indian tribes of the N.W. coast of America used copper shields for money

The Ashanti campaign in Africa was the last occasion in which British troops fought in scarlet uniforms.

Amazing facts

When it is 1.00 p.m. in Moscow the time is 10.00 pm in Andyr at the other end of the USSR.

The rickshaw was invented by an American Baptist minister in Japan in 1888.

By the end of 1976 over 185 million bottles of Coca-Cola were bought every day.

The Washday Game

(A game for 2-4 players)

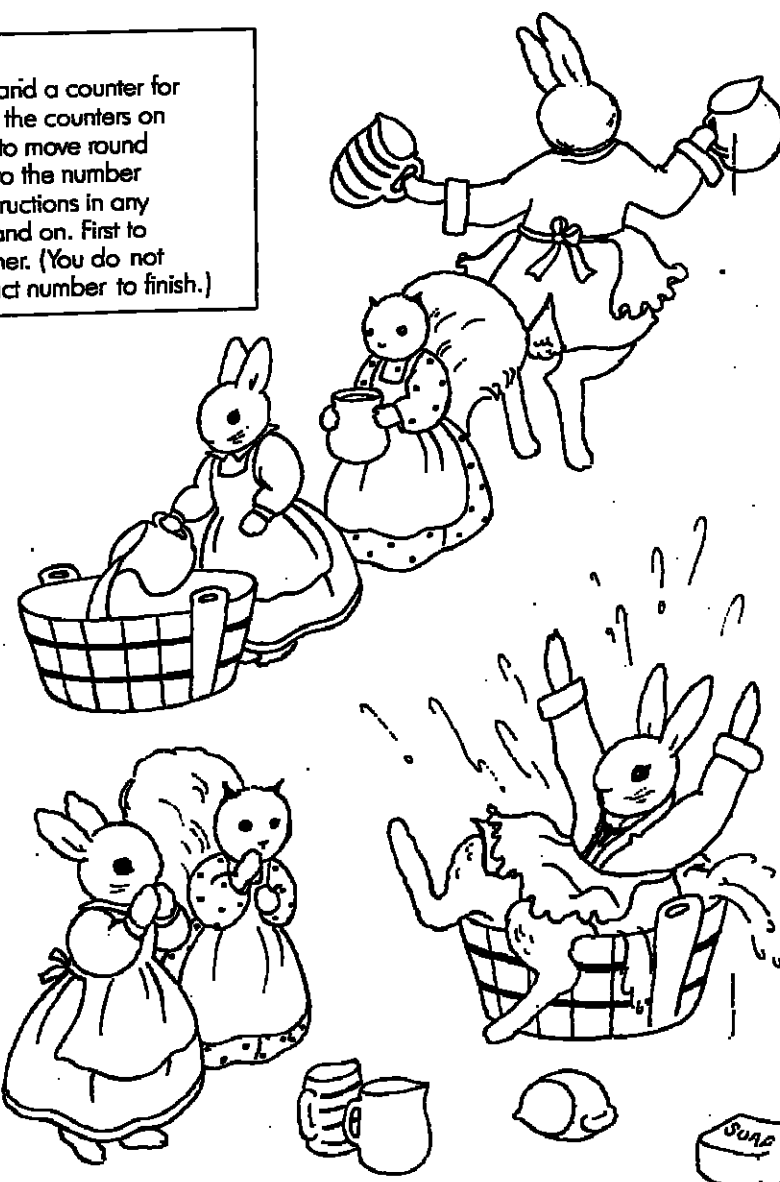
Rules

You will need a dice, and a counter for each player. Place all the counters on START. Take it in turns to move round the board according to the number thrown. Obey the instructions in any hazard squares you land on. First to the FINISH is the winner. (You do not have to throw the exact number to finish.)

START

Little Grey Rabbit fills the washtub. Throw again.

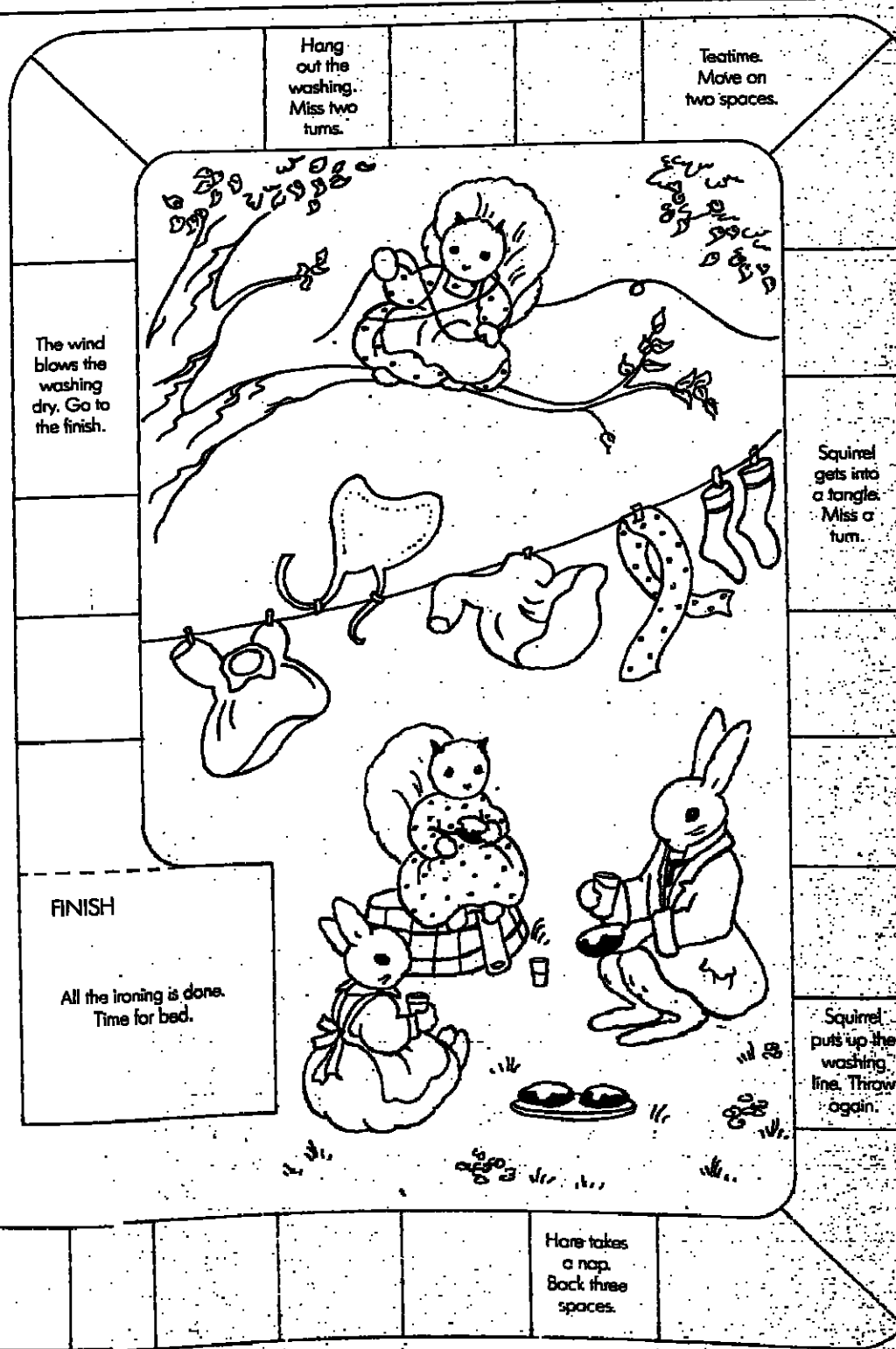
Squirrel drops the soap. Back two spaces.



Hare falls into the water. Miss a turn.

Lunchtime. Throw again.

Hare takes a nap. Back three spaces.



Dear Junior Readers,

As the weather gets warmer, air conditioners are turned on to cool down the atmosphere. The risk of catching the very common "beginning-of-summer" cold multiplies.

The best way to try to avoid this cold is to try not to go outside into the heat while your body is entirely adapted to the coolness of the air conditioner. Turn the air conditioner low, or off, about half an hour before you leave. This will prevent your body from shock once you go outside.

If you feel you are starting to catch a cold, (you feel a tickling in your throat, you start to sneeze, you feel tired) try to take as much vitamin C as possible. This you will find in citrus fruits like oranges and lemons, parsley and milk.

Mona.

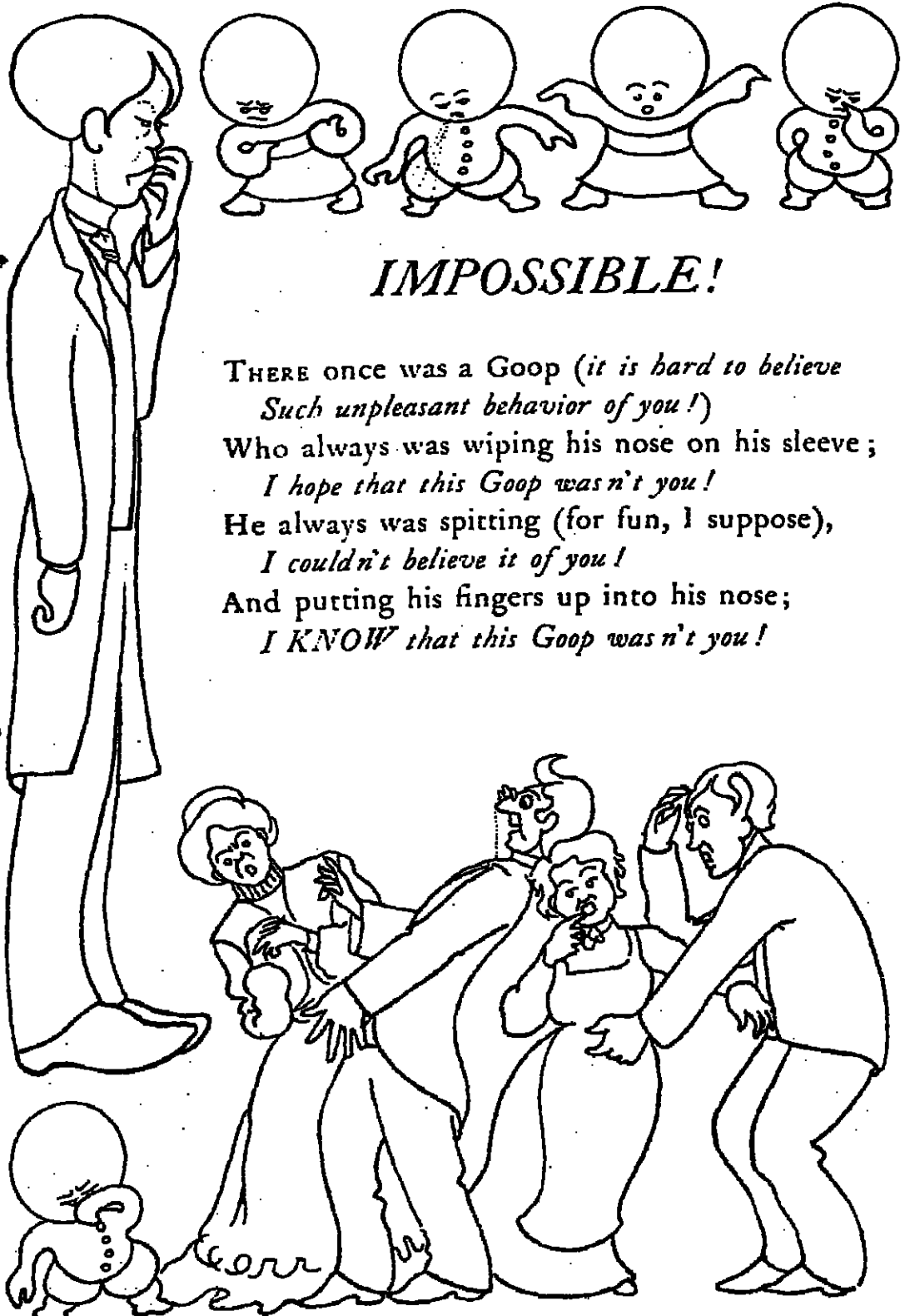
Wordsearch

AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE

| | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| ARROW | FARMERS | QUIVER |
| BEADS | HORSEMANSHIP | SIGN LANGUAGE |
| BOWS | HUNTER | SKINS |
| BRAVES | MASKS | SPEAR |
| BUFFALO | MEDICINE MAN | STORYTELLERS |
| CANOE | MURALS | TALES |
| CHIEF | PEACE PIPE | TEPEE |
| CORN | POWWOW | TOBACCO |
| DANCE | PRAYER | TRIBE |
| | | VISIONS |
| | | WAMPUM |
| | | WIGWAM |
| | | WOOD CARVING |
| | | WOODEN EFFIGIES |

S N O I S I V G T S E L A T F
W H B Q U I V E R P R A Y E R
W O O D C A R V I N G H C B S
A R O B O W S P B K T E P E E
M S C D S P E H E N G O N A V
P E K K E C U Q S A L N A D A
U M S A A N R R U A B A M S R
M A R E T M E G F J F C E M B
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J H G A L B R N L I N M C H V
L I F N N S R R T A G A I P C
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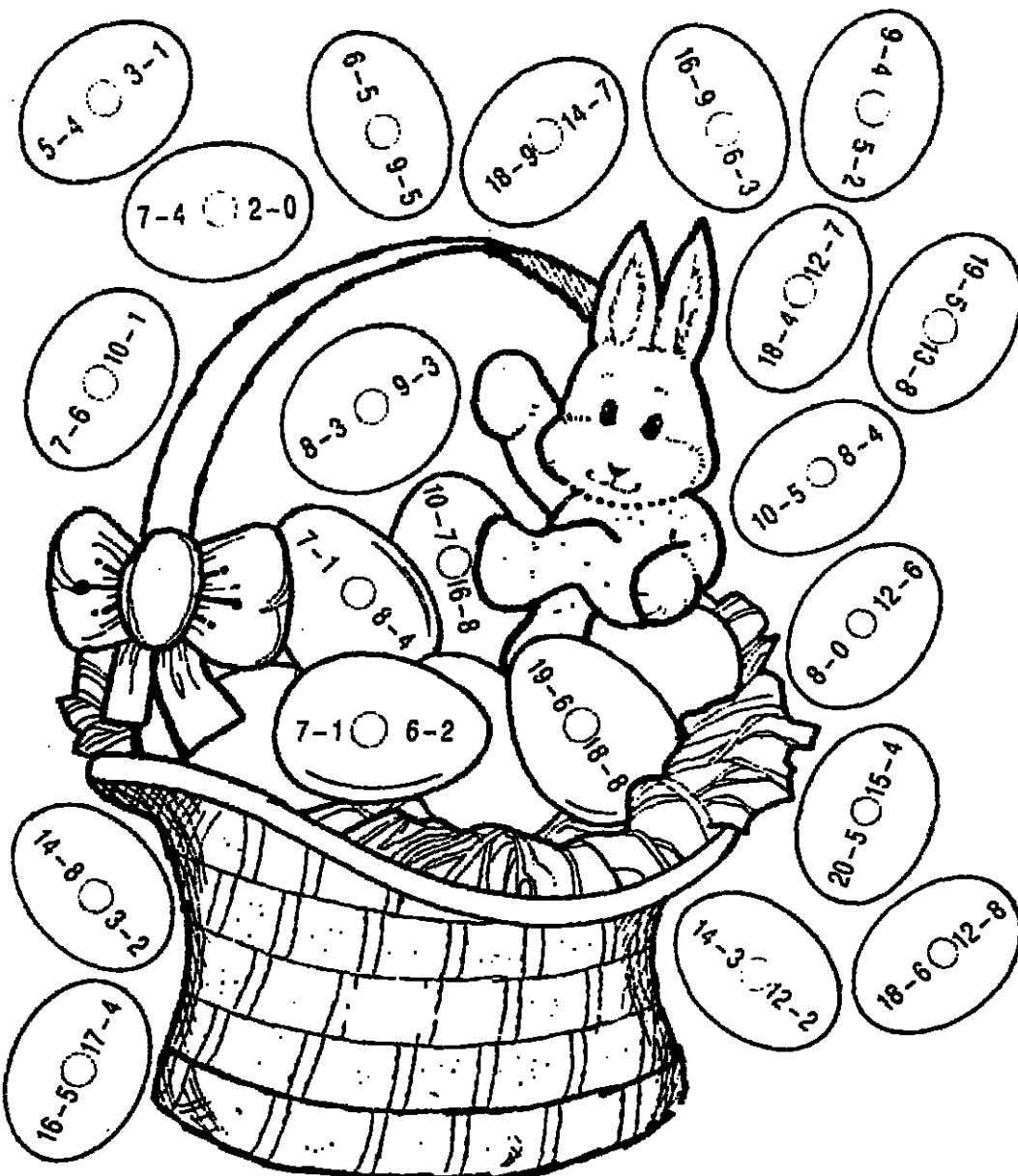
The Goops again



IMPOSSIBLE!

THERE ONCE WAS A GOOP (it is hard to believe
Such unpleasant behavior of you!)
Who always was wiping his nose on his sleeve;
I hope that this Goop was n't you!
He always was spitting (for fun, I suppose),
I couldn't believe it of you!
And putting his fingers up into his nose;
I KNOW that this Goop was n't you!

Eggs In A Basket



Find the answer. Write (> for greater than); (< for less than) in the circles. Color the greater than eggs yellow. Color the less than eggs blue.

Just for laughs!

'My sister's just got engaged to an Irish chap.'
'Oh really?'
'No — O' Reilly!'

'What are you learning at school now, Brenda?' asked her Granny.

'French, German and we've just started Algebra.'

'Really?' said the old lady, impressed. 'I used to learn French and German but I've never heard anyone speak Algebra.'

'Dad, the careers master said that with a mind like mine I should study criminal law.'

'That's wonderful, son. I'm proud of you.'

'He said I had a criminal mind.'

Colouring time



MOUSE

Ice Break!

A force that changes the Earth's surface is when water expands (gets bigger) as it turns to ICE. This is called FROST ACTION. Water gets into a rock, freezes, and expands as it turns to ice. The force of the ice pushing against the sides of the rock cracks the rock open more. Over many, many years, a big rock can be broken up this way into tiny, tiny pieces of rock.

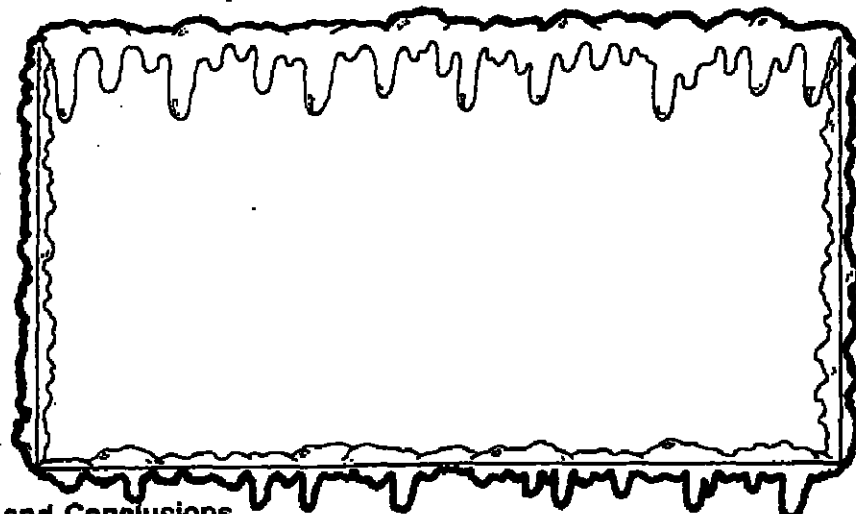


Will a glass jar filled with water break when the water turns to ice? Check your answer.

Materials Needed: water, bag, jar with lid

Procedure:

1. Fill a jar to the top with water.
2. Cap the jar tightly.
3. Place the jar inside a bag.
4. Put the bag with the jar in the freezer for one day.
5. Draw what the freezing water does to the glass jar.

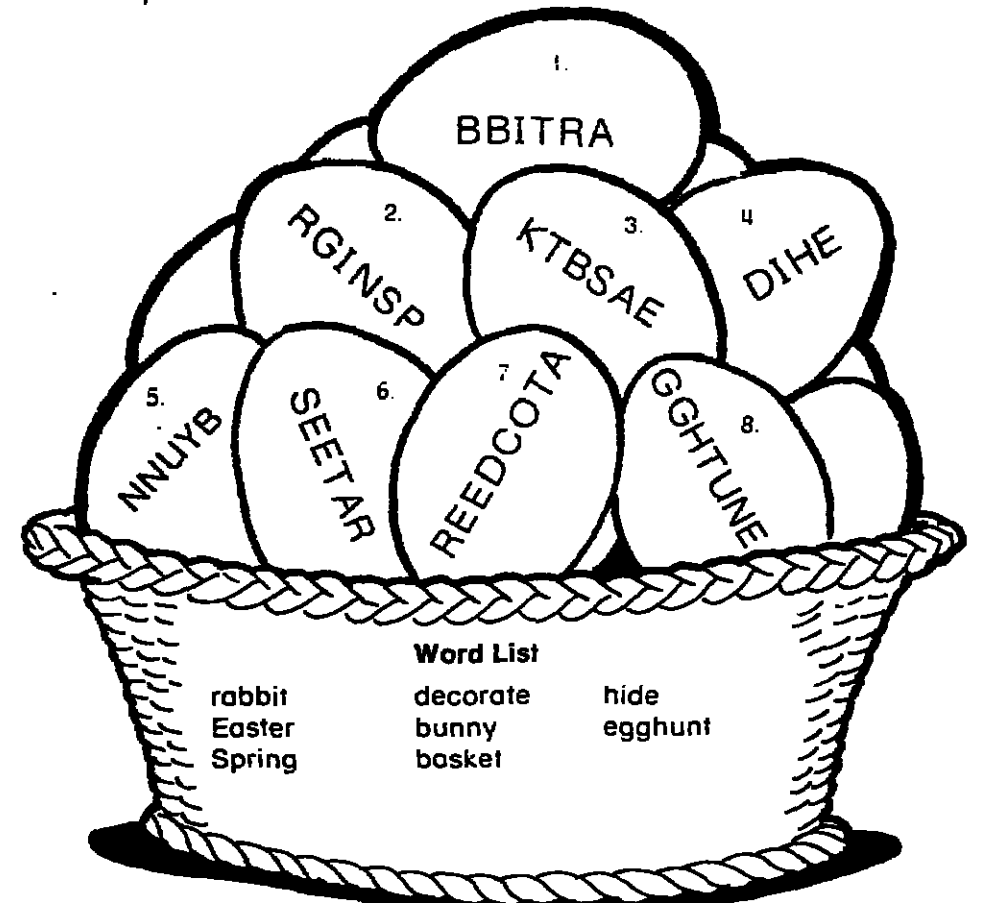


Results and Conclusions

1. Did the glass break?
2. Is that what you thought would happen?
3. What did you learn?

Scrambled Eggs

Directions: Unscramble the words in the Easter Basket. Use the list of words below to help you find the correct words. Write the correct words in the spaces.



Word List

rabbit
Easter
Spring
decorate
bunny
basket
hide
egghunt

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 4. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____

The Junior Airhostess

By Julie Hodgson

DINA was 14 years old, and was a member of a special team of 'Junior Airhostesses'. Dina really enjoyed the work, with her parents permission, she was allowed to travel just about all over the world. She came from Egypt, where the pyramids were. Not many teenagers had been there.

On one particular journey, Dina had boarded the plane as usual, when the captain announced that there were to be some special passengers on board. Well Dina was puzzled, as she thought that it would just be a routine flight.

After about half an hour the passengers boarded. Dina could not believe her eyes, from the entrance came none other than Tom Cruise followed closely by George Michael, then Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Kylie Mynogue and the London Boys. Well you can imagine the



shock on poor Dina's face.

"Oh Boy" she said out loud. Then quickly pulled herself together and set to work, making them as comfortable as she could.

Dina handed them newspapers and magazines and then offered drinks to all. There were many other passengers, but Dina quickly deduced that they were the "Roadies". There were at least fifty extra people.

The flight went without hitch, and Dina and the

two other stewardesses had fun as well as a lot of extra work.

Dina was allowed to talk to the super stars. She got their autographs. She sat beside Tom Cruise and had a chat with him, then near the end of the flight Kylie Minogue started to sing and the rest of them joined in, they were all clapping and cheering each other and were all totally relaxed.

When they landed, each and every one of the stars gave Dina and the others a big 'thankyou kiss' and an autographed photo of themselves.

Well she now has two autographs and a photo of each one, what more could one ask for. Dina was absolutely thrilled.

When she got home and told her sister Roya, she could not believe it. Her parents were just as surprised.

Dina fell asleep that night and dreamt, can you guess, who of????



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?

Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

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Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

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WANTED

A "SHARP" double video (VC 5W20). Tele. 5318060 ext 33, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm. (AT6-52231-3)

LOST

PASSPORT No. B708060 in the name of Sabina Fatima Fernandes. Indian. Finder please tele. Agnelo - 4673824, 4673894, ext. 73 or 76; Robert - 4810844, ext. 42. (AT5-52222-2)

WALLET (brown colour) containing Korean identity card and Korean driving licence. Finder please tele. 2452740, Carlton Tower Hotel reception. (AT4-52198-3)

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Large, elegant and well-built 3-bedroom flats (1664 s. ft.) with parking lots, to be sold quickly. Mainroad side situation close by Shymoli Cinema. TK 15.50 lakhs. For further details please contact: Mr. SHAH Tel. 2410549-2422066 (off.) 4315156 (res.).

REQUIRED URGENTLY

1) Part-time male architectural draughtsman with 5 years' experience
2) Spray painter with experience. Contact: Eng. Moudar Al-Khash Tel. 4814690-4818193-4811378 between 8 am - 2 pm.

REQUIRED URGENTLY

A male Arabic typist/messenger with knowledge of English for translation. Contact: Mr. Ashok Tel. 5759333, 5759355. Timings: 10am to 1pm & 8 to 10pm.

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REQUIRED URGENTLY

SPORTS

Lendl and Edberg advance

TOKYO, April 11. (AP): Top-seed Ivan Lendl, playing just 20 hours after arriving in Tokyo, and second-seeded Stefan Edberg today won their singles matches easily to advance to the third round of the \$1.15 million Japan Open tennis tournament.

Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, beat Shuzo Matsuoka, Japan's No. 1 player, 6-4, 6-2 on the hard court of Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum.

Sweden's Edberg, ranked second in the world, overwhelmed American Leif Shiras 6-0, 6-2 in their second-round match.

In other second-round matches in men's singles, third-seeded Brad Gilbert beat US compatriot Brad Pearce 1-6, 6-1, 6-0; fourth-seeded Aaron Krickstein beat American compatriot David Pate 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), and Patrick McEnroe, the younger brother of John McEnroe, beat fellow American Paul Chamberlin 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In the women's second-round matches, top-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden beat Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 7-5, 6-2 and Japan's Kumiko Okamoto upset fourth-seeded Betsy Nagelsen of the United States 6-1, 6-2.

Matsuoka and Lendl each kept service through the eighth game. Lendl won love-games in the fourth and eighth. He also broke Matsuoka in the ninth, as the Japanese player, trailing 15-30, committed an unforced error with a long forehand.

Lendl broke the third game after two deuces in the second set, and broke the seventh game.

Matsuoka and Lendl each hit 60 per cent of their first serves, but Matsuoka committed 22 unforced errors against 11 for Lendl.

"Since I met him four years ago, he has improved a lot," Lendl said of his opponent after the match.

Edberg quickly broke the first game of the set without losing a point. He also won love games in the fourth and sixth of the first set and lost only four points.

Players warned

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 11. (AP): Coach Sebastiao Lazaro of Brazil's national soccer team warned that players who fail to report for training camp on schedule could be left out of the World Cup in Italy.

The warning came in response to an impending boycott by foreign and local clubs that have balked at releasing their Brazilian stars.

New UAE coach

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, April 11. (AP): Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira officially took over the reins of the United Arab Emirates national soccer team yesterday and promised he will tell his players "to enjoy themselves at the World Cup finals" in Italy.

Parreira is the third coach in three months since first Mario Zagalo, also a Brazilian, and Bernard Blaut, a Pole, were asked to leave the job.

India Festival tournament

THE India Festival organising committee has announced that a volleyball tournament will be held soon in which 10 teams will be taking part. The following teams have provisionally registered for taking part in the tournament.

1. Cremenco (MAV); 2. Cremenco Club; 3. Century; 4. Arts Circle (A&B); 5. Blue Star team; 6. Sports Lovers (A&B); 7. Kerala Sports (A&B).

The finals will be held on April 24 at 8.00 pm. The representatives (coach/manager) of all teams are requested to attend a briefing at IAC hall today at 8.00 pm with complete list of players, and copies of Civil ID/passport.

Lanka Colts brush aside Hawks

LANKA COLTS (Trico) comfortably disposed of Hawks by 8 wickets in the Hubara Knockout Cup 'B' cricket tournament first quarterfinal played at Ahmedi last Friday morning.

Electing to bat, the Hawks innings was given a boost by openers Chris Michaels and Shantha who put on 60 runs for the first wicket. A disciplined knock of 33 runs from Chris Michaels, an adventurous 25 from Arun Nair and a late surge from Darryl and Paul pushed the Hawks total to 148 for 9 wickets in 30 overs.

Prominent amongst the Colts bowlers was the left-arm Rohan Peiris who bowled a nagging line and length to wipe out the cream of the Hawks batting to claim four wickets for 30 in his quota of 8 overs. The experienced Ralph with two wickets and Oliver and Hiran with a wicket each chipped in with

Bassett eliminates Cecchini Graf routs Langrova on return



Graf: 100 per cent fit again

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 11. (Reuters): Top-ranked Steffi Graf of West Germany triumphantly returned to the women's tennis Tour yesterday and took only 45 minutes to beat Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-0 at the \$350,000 Amelia Island Women's Open tennis tournament.

Graf, who fractured her thumb last February in a skiing accident, said she was pleased with her performance.

"It was the perfect first match for me," said Graf, who was to play 13th-seeded Andrea Temesvari of Hungary today.

"I played rather well and didn't have any problems. I don't feel like I'm behind at all. I played as I normally do," Graf said.

"It took me a few days to hit my first backhand, a few days to hit my first overhead," said Graf who had the cast removed from her hand a month ago.

"But there was always a little something to be happy about. I

was just glad to be back playing. I am 100 per cent now. If I wasn't I wouldn't be here at this tournament," said Graf who has won 53 consecutive matches, 21 behind Martina Navratilova's record of 74 straight.

"I just didn't think I could win," said Langrova, ranked 65th in the world. "She's so good and so fast. Even coming back from the injury, I knew Steffi was going to be very tough."

Carling Bassett-Seguso of Canada registered the day's biggest upset, eliminating seventh-seeded Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Bassett, ranked 620th after playing sparingly the past two years, was known as a persistent baseliner during her early career, when she rose to eighth-ranked in the world.

Bassett consistently beat Cecchini from the net, employing a successful serve-and-volley strategy.

"This really doesn't surprise

me because I had been practicing pretty well," Bassett said. "Mentally, I'm a little tired, but I'm feeling fine physically. I need to come to the net more, kind of like I did today, because I'm not willing to stay out there for eight hours anymore."

After Bassett went up two breaks at 3-0 in the third set, Cecchini battled back to take a 4-3 lead. But Bassett broke in the ninth game, then held to close out the match.

"It's tough for me to concentrate for three sets," Cecchini said. "I played bad the whole match. There's no confidence in my game right now."

In another upset, Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece rebounded from a disastrous first set and beat ninth-seeded Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union 0-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. Meskhi had a 5-3 lead in the second-set tiebreak, but Kanellopoulou rallied to win the set and the match.

Reeny and Koshy outclass opponents

Cherry overpowers Philip

A NUMBER of excellent games took place on Tuesday evening in the Indian Festival Badminton Tournament, being held at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaities.

The most exciting match of the day was the mixed doubles between Miss Reeny John and Koshy Thomas against Miss Asha Kutty and Shiva Kumar. It was a power-game filled with slot finding pushes and test of strength and stamina which extended to three sets. Finally the well-coordinated and trained team of Reeny John and Koshy Thomas outclassed the power fort of Shiva Kumar and Asha Kutty 15-4, 10-15, 15-7.

In the junior girls singles V. Laxmi Suresh had an easy win over Ruchie Raina, 11-1, 11-2.

In the junior boys singles Joseph C. Philips beat Sahyan P. 15-0, 15-4.

Another good game was the veterans singles between P.I. Allen Cherry and C. Philip. Well-experienced Allen Cherry overpowered Philip 15-4, 15-7. In the veterans doubles M.M. Joshi and John Kurien made a clean sweep over Dr. Srivastava and K.C. Eapen, 15-10, 15-2.

In another mixed doubles, Alice Nazareth and Louis Gonsalves had an effortless win over P. Thankappan and Molly Sunny 15-0, 15-5.

In the girls singles Alex Mathew and Sanjay Sharma fought for supremacy before Sanjay Sharma eliminated the latter 15-12, 15-6.

George Varghese routed Allen Cherry 15-7, 15-2 in another match.

The threats by V. Vijayan showed no face value against George Chacko in another girls singles event with the latter winning 5-15, 5-15.

The present Kuwait champions Ruben D'Silva and Saji Varghese spared no effort to eliminate the teenagers Suresh and Philip 15-4, 15-3. Fixtures for today.

Girls singles
George Varghese vs Louis Gonsalves (7.30 pm)
Bobby Cherian vs Siva Kumar (9.30 pm)

Junior girls singles
Simi Mathew vs Shiba Suresh (8.30 pm)

Girls doubles
Reji Varghese & A. Cherian

P.K. Sathish & P.K. Swapnen (9.30 pm)
T.S. Murugavelu & Mohan Acharya vs Rajan P.S. & Gopalakumar (8.30 pm)

Boys doubles
Bai Sharma & G.S. Praya vs Raj P. Koshy & Sanjay Sharma (8.30 pm)

Girls doubles
P.I. Allen Cherry & George Chacko vs. Koshy Thomas & Varghese Joseph (9.30 pm)

Boys doubles
Muradharan & J.S. Anand vs Johnson & Mohad Das (7.30 pm)

Girls doubles
Robert Henry & Mohan George vs Siva Kumar & N.C. Mathew (9.30 pm)

Boys doubles
Bobby Cherian & George Varghese vs Saji Thomas & Jacob Thomas (8.30 pm)

Protest disrupts S. African tennis match

CAPE TOWN, April 11. (Reuters): Anti-apartheid demonstrators disrupted a tennis match featuring an American defying the international sports boycott of South Africa.

Police and security staff at the Good Hope centre in Cape Town dragged off about 20 demonstrators who staged a sit-down protest on the court during last evening's duel between South Africa's Royce Deppe and American Robbie Weiss.

As the players looked on silently, a few of the demonstrators lay flat on the ground, shouting: "This is the new South Africa but look what is happening."

The crowd applauded as the last of the demonstrators was removed and the match, which Weiss won to win, resumed.

Johann Barnard, president of the South African Tennis Union, said he was sorry the protesters used an internationally sanctioned tournament to further their political objectives.

The United Nations backs a boycott of all South African sports events to protest against Pretoria's apartheid policies, although Grand Prix tennis events were held in the white-ruled republic until last year.

Result withheld

MILAN, Italy, April 11. (AP): The disciplinary commission of the Italian League yesterday withheld the result of the Atalanta-Napoli match pending a decision by the highest soccer tribunal.

Brazilian midfielder Alemão, reportedly hit in the head by a coin hurled by Atalanta fans, left the field before the end of last Sunday's match in Bergamo, which ended in a scoreless draw.

Napoli has demanded that it be awarded a 2-0 victory in line with league rules punishing the home team for misbehaviour of its fans.

Navratilova top-ranked in Italian Open

ROME, April 11. (Reuters): Martina Navratilova, twice runner-up, is the top-ranked woman in next month's Italian Open tennis tournament.

Navratilova, 33, who was on the verge of retiring last year, has rediscovered her enthusiasm for the game and won three out of the four tournaments she has entered in 1990.

On Sunday she defeated 14-year-old fellow-American Jennifer Capriati in the final of the Hilton Head clay court championship.

Navratilova lost the 1974 and 1975 Italian finals to five-time winner Chris Evert.

Organisers said yesterday that Capriati, twice a finalist in just three tournaments since turning professional last month, had also entered along with Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, champion for the past two years.

West Germany's world number one Steffi Graf, the 1987 champion who has been injured, will not take part.

The men's tournament has attracted John McEnroe and fellow American Michael Chang, the French Open champion, plus 1987 winner Mats Wilander of Sweden.

Romania's campaign fuelled by freedom

BUCHAREST, April 11. (Reuters): Romania's World Cup campaign may be spearheaded by the skills of five top players, but it will be fuelled by an even bigger influence — the intoxicating energy of freedom.

National coach Emerich Jenei selected Gheorghe Hagi, Miodrag Belodedici, Ovidiu Sabau, Gheorghe Popescu and Marius Lacatus as potential men to watch in Italy, but stressed the raw emotion of post-revolutionary fervour would be just as big a star.

Freed from the tyrannical rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in last December's bloody revolution, the Romanians will play with a distinct sense of new purpose.

"My players will be performing with smiles on their faces for the first time," Jenei said in an interview at his shabby sports ministry office in central Bucharest.

"A new sense of freedom brought about by the revolution has already left an imprint on the players."

"You can see it in the way they move, the way they talk — and more importantly in the way they are playing."

Romanian soccer, before the revolution has been described by new sports minister Mircea Angelescu as "a compensation of all the evils of the Ceausescu regime."

Angelescu said the game had been racked with the failing of results, threats to referees, players and officials and feuds between the top clubs who has powerful Communist Party backers determined to see their clubs at the top of the League.

Jenei, who guided Steaua Bucharest to European Cup triumph in 1986, was sacked several times for standing up to club officials, only to be taken on again.

Now 53, and looking every bit the prosperous Western manager, in well-cut suit and silk tie, Jenei has added motive for World Cup success — he plans to retire after the finals.

"Like everyone else who has seen the Romanians in action in recent years, Jenei identified Hagi as the team's biggest star and potential match-winner."

At 25, he has made 54 appearances for Romania and is currently being courted by European Cup holders AC Milan who have seen him for some time as a potential replacement for injury-hit Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

Hagi, a skilful goalscoring creative player, has been dubbed the "Maradona of the Carpathians" for his dynamic style. He has been described as the finest Romanian player of all time and is sure to be a major transfer target for the top West European clubs after the Italy.

Belodedici, a central defender who defected before the revolution and plays for Red Star Belgrade, was a key man in the Steaua Bucharest team which won the European Cup in January 1989. He is a classy, polished sweeper who can also play in midfield.

Sabau, a midfielder with Dinamo Bucharest, has made 17 appearances for Romania and scored some spec-



Gheorghe Hagi



Emerich Jenei

tacular goals. Originally a defender, he was converted to midfielder by an injury to Nicolae Ungureanu and has proved to be a revelation in the new position.

Popescu, a player in Sweden for the last two years, is another key player who has proved to be a revelation in the new position. He scored the winning goal against Bulgaria which ensured Romania's qualification for the World Cup finals. He scored during Steaua's run for the 1989 European Cup final when they were finally swept aside by AC Milan.

Lacatus, a tough goalscoring forward with Steaua, has made 33 appearances for Romania and is a key member of the two Steaua sides which reached the European Cup in 1986 and 1989.

This understanding with Hagi at club level could be crucial in that he can recover the scoring form which established him as one of the fastest and most dangerous strikers in Europe during the 1980s.

THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM WAS MAN MADE AND IT'S UP TO US TO SOLVE IT

A Traffic Issue

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